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bFGF mutein and its production.

A mutein resulting from substitution of cysteins for at least one of the constitutional amino acids has a high stability, and can serve well as a pharmaceutical, such as a healing promoting agent for wounds.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a mutein of basic fibroblast growth factor (hereinafter also referred to as bFGF for short) and a method of its production.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

bFGF, a basic polypeptide with a molecular weight of about 17000 was first isolated as a factor possessing strong growth promoting action on fibroblasts such as BALB.c3T3 cells [D. Gospodarowicz, Nature, 249, 123 (1974)]. It was then found to possess growth promoting action on almost all types of mesophile-derived cells [D. Gospodarowicz et al., National Cancer Institute Monograph, 48, 109(1978)]. Particularly, the angiogenic action of bFGF, along with its cell growth promoting action, suggest potential for its use as a therapeutic drug for the treatment of injuries and as a preventive and therapeutic drug for the treatment of thrombosis, arteriosclerosis and other diseases.

Bovine bFGF was first reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States 82, 6507-6511(1985). The amino acid composition of bovine bFGF, estimated from a cloned cDNA thereof, is shown in Science, 233, 545 (1986).

As for human bFGF, its extraction from the human brain is reported in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 135, 541 (1986).

Also, EMBO Journal (European Molecular Biology Organization Journal), 5, 2523 (1986) and PCT International Patent Publication No. WO87 01728 show the amino acid composition of human bFGF estimated from a clone obtained by cloning a cDNA of human bFGF using bovine bFGF as a probe.

Production of human bFGF by cloning a cDNA of human bFGF and cultivating the transformant is described in FEBS Letters, 213, 189 (1987) and Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 146, 470-477 (1987). (The base sequence of the cDNA used and the amino acid sequence of human bFGF are shown in Figure 1.)

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present inventors expected that modification of the amino acid sequence of bFGF would increase the stability, cellular productivity and cell growth promoting activity of the molecule and provide potentially useful unknown bioactivities.

On a note related to stability, protein denaturation is often accompanied by a loss of bioactivity. Stability of the higher structure of protein is therefore a key point when the protein is used as a pharmaceutical. The higher structure of a protein is considered to depend basically on the primary structure; its stability is attributed mainly to the interaction of amino acid side chains or between side chains and the polypeptide main chain, i.e., hydrogen bonds, S-S bonds of cysteine residues, electrostatic attracting force and hydrophobic bonds.

bFGF contains four Cys residues, but they are not essential to the activity of bFGF, none forming an intramolecular S-S bond [X. Zhu et al., Science, 251, 90-93 (1991)]. This means that the higher structure of bFGF is based on the above-mentioned hydrogen bonds, electrostatic attracting force, hydrophobic bonds etc., and is not subject to strong constraint of covalent bonds (S-S bonds). This results in a high degree of freedom of intramolecular movement of bFGF, thus largely accounting for the fact that this protein is apt to denature under various sets of physical and chemical conditions.

Seno et al. (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 1-93/1990 which corresponds to EP-A-281,822) attempted to obtain a stabler bFGF mutein by substituting amino acids constituting the bFGF molecule and various other amino acids. They achieved remarkable success in stabilizing the molecule, hence improving bFGF purification efficiency by substituting residues of Ser and other amino acids for Cys residues to reduce or eliminate the probability of existing Cys residues forming an intermolecular or undesirable intramolecular S-S bond.

The present inventors provided the security and stabilization of the higher structure of bFGF by preparing a mutein wherein constitutional amino acids of bFGF are replaced by other amino acids, particularly cysteine, and causing these newly introduced cysteine residues to form previously nonexistent S-S bonds, either among themselves or with cysteine residues originally present in the bFGF molecule.

When an S-S bond is newly formed in a protein molecule, the side chains of the cysteine residues involved should be spatially close to each other. For this reason, information on higher structure obtained by X-ray crystallographic analysis is very useful, making logical and efficient research possible in obtaining a protein of the desired nature. The inventors succeeded in crystallizing bFGF and a mutein thereof

(Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 47198/1991) and analyzed their steric structures H. Ago et al. J.Biochem. 110, 360-363 (1991).

On the basis of the findings from this work, the inventors prepared a modified bFGF mutein by recombinant DNA technology and site-directed mutagenesis, and investigated improvement in stability, increase in cellular productivity and activity and change in bioactivities, and found that improved stability is seen in a mutein resulting from substitution of cysteine for at least one of the constitutional amino acids of bFGF or an active derivative thereof. The inventors made further investigations based on this finding, and thus developed the present invention.

The present invention provides:

- (1) a mutein resulting from substitution of cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting bFGF or an active derivative thereof.
- (2) a recombinant DNA having the base sequence which codes for the mutein of (1) above.
- (3) a vector containing the recombinant DNA of (2) above.
- (4) a transformant carrying the vector of (3) above.
- (5) a method of producing the mutein of (1) above characterized by cultivation of the transformant of (4) above in culture medium.
- (6) a method of producing a mutein wherein an intramolecular disulfide bond (S-S bond) has been formed between two cysteine residues in the molecule of the mutein of (1) above by subjecting the mutein of (1) to an oxidative reaction.
- (7) a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein in accordance with the mutein (1) as an active ingredient in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a healing action for the treatment of burns, wounds, postoperative tissue healing,
- (8) a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein in accordance with the mutein (1) as an active ingredient in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a therapeutic action on thrombosis and, arteriosclerosis, and
- (9) a method for producing a pharmaceutical composition of said (7) or (8) by mixing the mutein (1) with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows an example of the base sequence which codes for naturally occurring human bFGF and the amino acid sequence of human bFGF.

Figure 2 shows the primers used for site-directed mutagenesis in Examples 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, together with the sequences of the corresponding portions before mutation (shown in the upper columns).

In Fig. 2, the upper column of (a) shows sequence before mutation and the lower column of (a) shows oligonucleotide 1; the upper column of (b) shows sequence before mutation and the lower column of (b) shows oligonucleotide 2; the upper column of (c) shows sequence before mutation and the lower column of (c) shows oligonucleotide 3; the upper column of (d) shows sequence before mutation and the lower column of (d) shows oligonucleotide 4; and the upper column of (e) shows sequence before mutation and the lower column of (e) shows oligonucleotide 5.

Figure 3 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCB23 obtained in Example 1.

Figure 4 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCN23 obtained in Example 1.

Figure 5 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCBFM2 obtained in Example 2.

Figure 6 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pBFM2 obtained in Example 2.

Figure 7 shows the base sequence which codes for the human bFGF mutein BFM2, carried by the plasmid pBFM2 obtained in Example 2, and the corresponding amino acid sequence. Each underline shows a base different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type; each upper line shows an amino acid residue different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type.

Figure 8 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCBFM3 obtained in Example 3.

Figure 9 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pBFM3 obtained in Example 3.

Figure 10 shows the base sequence which codes for the human bFGF mutein BFM3, carried by the plasmid pBFM3 obtained in Example 3, and the corresponding amino acid sequence. Each underline shows a base different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type; each upper line shows an amino acid residue different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type.

Figure 11 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCBFM4 obtained in Example 4.

Figure 12 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pBFM4 obtained in Example 4.

Figure 13 shows the base sequence which codes for the human bFGF mutein BFM4, carried by the plasmid pBFM4 obtained in Example 4, and the corresponding amino acid sequence. Each underline shows

a base different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type; each upper line shows an amino acid residue different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type.

Figure 14 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pUCBFM5 obtained in Example 5.

Figure 15 is a construction scheme of the plasmid pBFM5 obtained in Example 5.

5 Figure 16 shows the base sequence which codes for the human bFGF mutein BFM5, carried by the plasmid pBFM5 obtained in Example 5, and the corresponding amino acid sequence. Each underline shows a base different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type; each upper line shows an amino acid residue different from the counterpart in the naturally occurring type.

Figure 17 shows the results of SDS-PAGE obtained before and after the expressions of the muteins in Examples 2 (2), 3 (2), 4 (2) and 5 (2).

Lanes 1 through 10 in Figure 17 denote the following:

15 Lane 1 : Molecular weight marker
Lane 2 : BFM2, before IPTG addition
Lane 3 : BFM2, 3 hours after IPTG addition
Lane 4 : BFM3, before IPTG addition
Lane 5 : BFM3, 3 hours after IPTG addition
Lane 6 : BFM4, before IPTG addition
Lane 7 : BFM4, 3 hours after IPTG addition
Lane 8 : BFM5, before IPTG addition
20 Lane 9 : BFM5, 3 hours after IPTG addition
Lane 10 : Purified mutein CS23

Figure 18 shows the results of SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting of the cells caused to express the mutein in Examples 2 (2), 3 (2), 4 (2) and 5 (2).

In Figure 18, "A" represents protein staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue, "B" immunoblotting; lanes 1 through 5 denote the following:

25 Lane 1 : Molecular weight marker
Lane 2 : BFM2
Lane 3 : BFM3
Lane 4 : BFM4
30 Lane 5 : BFM5
Lane 6 : Purified mutein CS23

Figure 19 shows the results of SDS-PAGE of the sample during purification of BFM5 in Example 6.

In Figure 19, lanes 1 through 5 denote the following:

35 Lane 1 : QAE-Toyopearl column effluent fraction, 4.5 μ l
Lane 2 : CM-Toyopearl column eluate (2-fold dilution), 10 μ l
Lane 3 : CM-Toyopearl column eluate (2-fold dilution), 3.5 μ l
Lane 4 : Purified mutein BFM5, 1.1 μ l (1.0 μ g)
Lane 5 : Purified mutein CS23

Figure 20 (A) shows the results of SDS-PAGE, obtained in Example 7, of a BFM4 sample being purified. Figure 20 (B) shows the results of non-reducing SDS-PAGE, obtained in Example 8, of BFM4 before oxidation (reduced BFM4) and after oxidation (oxidized BFM4).

Figure 21 (A) shows the reverse phase HPLC elution pattern, obtained in Example 8, of BFM4 before oxidation. Figure 21 (B) shows the reverse phase HPLC elution pattern, obtained in Example 8, of BFM4 after oxidation.

45 Figure 22 shows the stability of oxidized BFM4 obtained under conditions of pH 2 and 37°C in Example 9.

Figure 23 shows the stability of oxidized BFM4 obtained under conditions of pH 7.4 and 50°C in Example 10.

50 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a mutein resulting from substitution of cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting bFGF or an active derivative thereof.

55 As a preferred embodiment, there is provided a mutein (1-2) wherein a cysteine introduced by substitution is located at a position where the substituted cysteine and a second cysteine form a mutual disulfide bond.

Further, in preferred embodiments of said mutein (1-2), it is preferable that said second cysteine is one which constitutes bFGF. Preferred positions for the second cysteine include the position 25 or 92 of

human bFGF or bovine bFGF. When the second cysteine is that at the position 25, the preferred position of the first cysteine is the positions of 118 or 139, and when the second cysteine is that at the position 92, the preferred position of the first cysteine is the positions of 75 or 85.

In certain embodiments of said mutein (1-2), it is preferable that an even number of cysteines are introduced by substitution so that each pair of cysteines are sufficiently spaced so as to form a disulfide bond. The location pairs are exemplified by the positions 20 and 52; 21 and 142; 27 and 135; 33 and 50; 49 and 69; and 81 and 126 of human bFGF or bovine bFGF. Examples of said even numbers include even numbers of 2 through 8, and preferably of 2 through 4. Incidentally, in this case, the muteins in which cysteine(s) introduced by substitution does (do) not form disulfide bond are also included.

Furthermore, the mutein of the present invention preferably has a disulfide bond (hereinafter it is sometimes abbreviated an "S-S bond") formed between two cysteine residues in the molecule thereof.

The bFGF for the present invention may be derived from mammals. Examples of source mammals include humans, monkeys, swine, bovines, sheep and horses. The bFGF may be extracted from various organs which have already been found to contain it, such as the brain and the pituitary. The bFGF may also be obtained by recombinant DNA technology [FEBS Letters, 213, 189-194 (1987); European Patent Publication No. 237,966].

Examples of active derivatives of bFGF include muteins of bFGF possessing activities similar to those of bFGF.

The bFGF mutein is essentially an amino acid sequence variant of the original peptide or protein. Accordingly, such muteins include amino acid addition, constitutional amino acid deletion and/or replacement by other amino acids.

Examples of the bFGF mutein include the muteins described in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 151, 701-708 (1988), European Patent Publication (hereinafter also referred to as EP for short) No. 281,822, No. 326,907, No. 394,951, No. 298,728 and PCT WO89/04832.

To produce the mutein of the present invention, site-directed mutagenesis is used in addition to conventional recombinant DNA technology. This technique, known to those skilled in the art, is described by R. F. Lather and J. P. Lecoq in Genetic Engineering, Academic Press (1983), 31-50. Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis is described by M. Smith and S. Gillam in Genetic Engineering: Principles and Methods, Plenum Press (1981), 3, 1-32.

To produce the structural gene which codes for the mutein of the present invention, the following steps are followed:

- (a) a single-stranded DNA comprising a single chain of the structural gene of bFGF is hybridized to a mutational oligonucleotide primer,
- (b) the primer is elongated by DNA polymerase to form a mutated heteroduplex, and
- (c) this mutated heteroduplex is replicated.

The size of the oligonucleotide primer depends on the conditions necessary for stable hybridization of the primer with the gene region in which the mutation is induced, and on the limitations in the currently available method for oligonucleotides synthesis. The factors to be considered in designing the oligonucleotide used for oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis (e.g., overall size, mutational site detouring portion size) are described by M. Smith and S. Gillam (the same publication as above). Generally, the total length of the oligonucleotide is such that stable and unique hybridization at the mutational site is optimized, and the sizes of the extensions from the mutational site to the 5'- and 3'-terminals are set so as to avoid mutational editing by the exonuclease activity of DNA polymerase. The oligonucleotide used for mutagenesis in accordance with the present invention contains normally about 12 to 24 bases, preferably about 14 to 20 bases, and more preferably about 14 to 18 bases. These normally include at least about 3 of the codons to be changed on the 3'-terminal side.

For example, to obtain a mutein wherein the constitutional amino acid leucine has been replaced by cysteine, a synthetic nucleotide primer which changes the leucine codon to the cysteine codon is used for site-directed mutagenesis to yield a modified bFGF gene. To change a leucine residue of human bFGF (118-position) to cysteine, the primer is hybridized to the sense chain of the FGF gene. Examples of preferred nucleotide primers include 5'-CAGTTCGTTTGCATGCCACATAC-3' (the underline indicates the changed codon).

Examples of preferred primers for changing phenylalanine (139-position) to cysteine include 5'-CATTGGAAGACAAAGTATAGC-3' (the underline indicates the changed codon).

Examples of preferred primers for changing alanine (75-position) to cysteine include 5'-TTCCTTCATACACAGGTAACGA-3' (the underline indicates the changed codon).

Examples of preferred primers for changing serine (85-position) to cysteine include 5'-AACAGACTTGCATGCTAGTAATCT-3' (the underline indicates the changed codon).

The primer is hybridized to a single-stranded phage cloned from a single-stranded chain of the bFGF gene, such as M13 [Yanisch-Perron, C. Vieira and J. Messing, *Gene* 33, 103-119 (1985); Messing J., *Methods in Enzymology*, 101, 20-78 (1983)], fd[R. Herrman et al., *Molecular and General Genetics*, 177, 231 (1980)] or ϕ 174 [M. Smith and S. Gillam, *Genetic Engineering*, Plenum Press 3, 1-32 (1981)], or a phage-plasmid chimeric vector such as pUC118 or pUC119 [J. Vieira and J. Messing, *Methods in Enzymology*, 153, 3-11 (1987)]. The phage is recognized as capable of carrying a chain of the gene irrespective of whether it is a sense or antisense chain. When the phage carries an antisense chain, the primer may, due to codon degeneration, be unidentical with the sense chain region containing the codon to be mutated, in addition to the disagreement with this codon, thus determining a triplet encoding another amino acid. Similarly, when the phage carries a sense chain, the primer may not be complementary to the sense chain region containing the codon to be mutated, except for appropriate disagreements in the triplet pairing with the codon to be deleted. Conditions used for this hybridization are described by M. Smith and S. Gillam (same publication as above). Temperature normally ranges from about 0°C to 70°C, more commonly from about 10°C to 50°C. After hybridization, the primer is elongated on the phage DNA by reaction with *Escherichia coli* DNA polymerase I, T4 DNA polymerase, reverse transcriptase or another appropriate DNA polymerase. The resulting dsDNA is converted to cyclic dsDNA by treatment with a DNA ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. DNA molecules having a single-stranded region can be disrupted by S1 endonuclease treatment.

The resulting mutated heteroduplex is used to transform infectable host organisms or cells. In the replication of the heteroduplex in a host, offspring emerge from both chains. Replication is followed by isolation of the mutant gene from the mutant chain offspring, which is then inserted into an appropriate vector, which is used to transform an appropriate host organism or cell.

Next, the phage DNA carrying the mutated gene is isolated and inserted into a plasmid.

Examples of the plasmid for DNA insertion include plasmids derived from *Escherichia coli* such as pBR322 [Gene, 2, 95 (1977)], pBR325 [Gene, 4, 121 (1978)], pUC12 [Gene, 19, 259 (1982)] and pUC13 [Gene, 19, 259 (1982)] and those derived from *Bacillus subtilis* such as pUB110 [Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 112, 678 (1983)], but any other can be used for this purpose, as long as it is replicable in the host.

Examples of the method of insertion into the plasmid include that described by T. Maniatis et al. in *Molecular Cloning*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, page 239 (1982).

The cloned gene is joined to the downstream of the promoter, in a vehicle (vector) suitable for its expression, to yield an expression vector.

Examples of vectors include the above-mentioned plasmids derived from *Escherichia coli* (e.g., pBR322, pBR325, pUC12, pUC13), plasmids derived from *Bacillus subtilis* (e.g., pUB110, pTP5, pC194), yeast-derived plasmids (e.g., pSH19, pSH15), bacteriophages such as λ phage, and animal viruses such as retrovirus and vaccinia virus.

The gene may have ATG as a translational initiation codon at its 5'-terminal and TAA, TGA or TAG as a translational termination codon at its 3'-terminal. To express the gene, a promoter is ligated to its upstream. Any promoter can be used for the present invention, as long as it is appropriate for the host used to express the gene.

Examples of preferred promoters include the trp promoter, lac promoter, rec A promoter, λ P_L promoter, p_{pp} promoter and phage T7 ϕ 10 promoter when the transformation host is a bacterium of the genus *Escherichia*; the SPO1 promoter, SPO2 promoter and pen_P promoter when the host is a bacterium of the genus *Bacillus*; and the PHO5 promoter, PGK promoter, GAP promoter and ADH promoter when the host is a yeast. Preference is given to the case in which a bacterium of the genus *Escherichia* is used as host in combination with the trp promoter, λ P_L promoter or phage T7 ϕ 10 promoter.

When the host is an animal cell, preferable promoters include the SV40-derived promoter and retrovirus promoter, with preference given to the SV40-derived promoter.

The thus-constructed vector, harboring a recombinant DNA having the mutein-encoding base sequence, is used to produce a transformant carrying said vector.

Examples of the host include bacteria of the genus *Escherichia*, bacteria of the genus *Bacillus*, yeasts and animal cells.

Examples of the bacteria of the genus *Escherichia* include *Escherichia coli* K12DH1 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA, 60, 160 (1968)], JM103 [Nucleic Acids Research, 9, 309 (1981)], JA221 [Journal of Molecular Biology, 120, 517 (1978)], HB101 [Journal of Molecular Biology, 41, 459 (1969)], C600 [Genetics 39, 440(1954)], MM294 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA 73, 4174 (1976)] and MM294(DE3):pLysS (Japanese Patent Publication Open to Public Inspection No. 43088 1991).

Examples of the bacteria of the genus *Bacillus* include *Bacillus subtilis* MI 114 [Gene 24, 255 (1983)] and 207-21 [Journal of Biochemistry, 95, 87 (1984)].

Examples of the yeasts include *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* AH22R-, NA87-11A and DKD-5D.

Examples of animal cells include simian cells COS-7, Vero, Chinese hamster cells CHO, mouse L cells and human FL cells.

The bacteria of the genus *Escherichia* can be transformed in accordance with the method described in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA 69, 2110 (1972), Gene, 17, 107 (1982) and other publications, for instance.

Bacteria of the genus *Bacillus* can be transformed in accordance with the method described in Molecular and General Genetics, 168, 111 (1979) and other publications, for instance.

Yeasts can be transformed in accordance with the method described in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA, 75, 1929 (1978), for instance.

Animal cells can be transformed in accordance with the method described in Virology, 52, 456 (1973), for instance.

A transformant carrying a vector harboring a recombinant DNA having a mutein-encoding base sequence is thus obtained.

The mutein of the present invention is produced by cultivating said transformant in culture medium.

For cultivating a transformant whose host is a bacterium of the genus *Escherichia* or *Bacillus*, it is appropriate to use liquid medium supplemented with carbon sources, nitrogen sources, minerals and other substances necessary for the growth of the transformant. Examples of carbon sources include glucose, dextrin, soluble starch and sucrose. Examples of nitrogen sources include organic or inorganic substances such as ammonium salts, nitrates, corn steep liquor, peptone, casein, meat extracts, soybean cake and potato extracts. Examples of minerals include calcium chloride, sodium dihydrogen phosphate and magnesium chloride. Yeasts, vitamins, growth promoters and other additives may be added.

The pH of the medium is preferably about 6 to 8.

Examples of media preferably used to cultivate *Escherichia* bacteria include the M9 medium containing glucose and casamino acid [Miller, Journal of Experiments in Molecular Genetics, 431-433, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York (1972)]. To increase promoter efficiency as necessary, a chemical agent such as 3 β -indolyl acrylic acid or isopropyl β D-thiogalactopyranoside may be added.

When the host is a bacterium of the genus *Escherichia*, cultivation is normally carried out at about 15 to 43°C for about 3 to 24 hours, with aeration and/or stirring as necessary.

When the host is a bacterium of the genus *Bacillus*, cultivation is normally carried out at about 30 to 40°C for about 6 to 24 hours, with aeration and/or stirring as necessary.

Examples of media for cultivating a transformant whose host is a yeast include Burkholder's minimal medium [Bostian, K. L. et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA 77, 4505 (1980)]. It is preferable to adjust the medium to a pH of about 5 to 8. Cultivation is normally carried out at about 20 to 35°C for about 24 to 72 hours, with aeration and/or stirring as necessary.

Examples of media for cultivating a transformant whose host is an animal cell include MEM medium containing about 5 to 20% fetal bovine serum [Science, 122, 501 (1952)], DMEM medium [Virology, 8, 396 (1959)], RPMI 1640 medium [Journal of the American Medical Association, 199, 519 (1967)] and 199 medium [Proceedings of the Society for the Biological Medicine, 73, 1 (1950)]. The pH is preferably about 6 to 8. Cultivation is normally carried out at about 30 to 40°C for about 15 to 60 hours, with aeration and/or stirring as necessary.

Separation and purification of mutein from the culture described above can be achieved by the following method.

First, the cultured bacterial cells, yeasts or animal cells are disrupted to extract their content. For this purpose, a large number of means are available, including French press, ultrasound, lysozyme, freeze-thawing and glass beads, with preference in this case given to a combination of lysozyme and ultrasound. Addition of a reducing agent, such as dithiothreitol, to the buffer before disrupting the bacterial or animal cells can increase recovery of the desired mutein. The concentration of the reducing agent is preferably about 1 mM to 100 mM. However, when using lysozyme, the reducing agent is added after lysozyme reaction.

Next, the cell extract is centrifuged to separate the supernatant from the precipitate. When the mutein has been recovered in the supernatant, efficient purification can be achieved in the same manner as the method described by M. Iwane et al. [Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 146, 470-477 (1987)]. When the mutein has been recovered in the precipitate, the precipitate is dissolved in a solution containing a protein denaturant such as guanidine hydrochloride, after which the denaturant concentration is reduced by dialysis or dilution to separate the desired bioactive mutein. The mutein

recovered from the precipitate can be prepared as a product of high purity and high activity, like the mutein recovered from the supernatant, by a purification as necessary.

The co-presence of a trace amount of reducing agent during the purification or storage process sometimes serves well to prevent oxidation of the product. However, to cause the Cys residue, newly introduced by amino acid substitution, to form an S-S bond as expected from the steric structure of bFGF, the reducing agent is removed at any time point during the purification process, or purification is conducted without adding the reducing agent.

From the viewpoint of recovery rate and purity, it is preferable that a reducing agent be present during cell disruption through the initial stage of purification, and be removed in the midst of purification. Because said mutein spontaneously forms an S-S bond between some of newly introduced Cys residues or between some of the newly introduced Cys residues and some of existing Cys residues in the absence of reducing agent, the finished purified product, with the reducing agent removed during the purification process, is a mixture of a mutein with S-S bond(oxidized mutein) and a mutein having no S-S bond (reduced mutein). In many cases, the reduced mutein possesses bioactivities similar to those of naturally occurring bFGF, but it is possible to prepare a product mostly comprising the oxidized mutein and accomplish the object of the invention by artificially forming an S-S bond by the method described below.

Examples of methods of forming an S-S bond between two cysteine residues in the molecule include the method based on air oxidation and the method using a glutathione redox buffer [V. P. Saxena and D. B. Wetlaufer, *Biochemistry*, 9, 5015 (1970)], with preference given to the latter. When a mutein-containing solution and a glutathione redox buffer of appropriate concentration are mixed and kept standing at appropriate temperature, the reduced mutein rapidly turns into the oxidized type. Specifically, it is preferable that the sum of the final concentrations of the oxidized glutathione (abbreviated GSSG) and the reduced glutathione (abbreviated GSH) be in the range from about 0.1 mM to 100 mM, the GSSG-GSH concentration ratio in the range from about 0.05 to 5 and the pH in the range from about 7 to 9; a small amount of EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) may be present concurrently. Although appropriate temperature varies among the muteins, it is preferably between about 4°C and 40°C. Also, the co-presence of about 1 M to 3 M urea can increase the efficiency of formation of the desired S-S bond. To terminate the reaction, the pH is reduced to near 6 or the glutathione is removed by dialysis or gel filtration.

For the method based on air oxidation described above, an appropriate buffer, such as Tris-HCl, is added to adjust the mutein-containing solution to a pH of about 7 to 10, preferably about 8 to 9, and the solution is kept standing in contact with air. In this case, the co-presence of about 0.1 μ M to 1 mM ion of a metal such as copper can shorten the time required for S-S bond formation. It is also effective to sparge air or oxygen in the solution to cause gentle bubbling. Any temperature is acceptable, as long as the mutein is not denatured, with preference given to the range from about 0°C to 40°C.

The S-S bond forming procedure may be conducted at any time point in the mutein purification process, with no limitation on purity or concentration of the mutein.

Since the mutein of the present invention possesses fibroblast growth-promoting activity, vascular endothelial cell growth-promoting activity and angiogenic activity, and has high stability and low toxicity, it can be used as a healing promoting agent for burns, wounds, postoperative tissue healing etc. or as a therapeutic drug for thrombosis, arteriosclerosis and other diseases, based on its angiogenic activity. It can also be used as a reagent for accelerating cell culture.

For pharmaceutical use, the mutein of the present invention can be safely administered orally or non-orally in the form of powder as such, or in the form of pharmaceutical compositions (e.g., injections, tablets, capsules, solutions, ointments) by mixing together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to warm-blooded animals (e.g., humans, mice, rats, hamsters, rabbits, dogs, cats).

The injection is prepared in accordance with a conventional method using physiological saline or an aqueous solution containing glucose and other auxiliaries. Other pharmaceutical compositions, such as tablets and capsules, can also be prepared in accordance with conventional methods.

The carrier for tablets or capsules includes pharmaceutically acceptable carriers (e.g. lactose, corn starch, light silicic anhydride, microcrystalline cellulose, sucrose), binders (e.g. alpha-form starch, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone), disintegrating agents (e.g. carboxymethylcellulose calcium, starch, low substituted hydroxypropylcellulose), surfactants (e.g. Tween 80 (Kao-Atlas), Pluronic F68 (Asahi Denka, Japan); polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene copolymer), antioxidants (e.g. L-cysteine, sodium sulfite, sodium ascorbate), lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc).

When the composition is formulated into an injectable aqueous solution, the solution is prepared by conventional methods using a solvent such as an aqueous solvent (e.g., distilled water, physiological saline, Ringer's solution), or oily solvent (e.g., sesame oil, olive oil). If desired, one or more additives may be

employed. Such additives include a dissolution aid (e.g., sodium salicylate, sodium acetate), buffer (e.g., sodium citrate, glycerine), isotonicizing agent (e.g., glucose, invert sugar), stabilizers (e.g., human serum albumin, polyethylene glycol), preservative (e.g., benzyl alcohol, phenol) or analgesics (e.g., benzalkonium chloride, procaine hydrochloride).

5 Examples of the additives used when the ointments are prepared include vaseline, beweswax, paraffin, liquid paraffin, cholesterol, stearyl alcohol, lanolin, cetyl alcohol and polyethylene glycol.

When using the mutein of the present invention as a pharmaceutical as described above, it is administered to the above-mentioned warm-blooded animals in doses selected as appropriate from the range from about 1 ng to 100 µg/kg daily, in view of the route of administration, symptoms and other factors.

When using the mutein of the present invention as a reagent for accelerating cell culture, it is preferable to add it to medium to a final concentration of about 0.01 to 10 µg, more preferably about 0.1 to 10 µg per liter of medium.

The mutein of the present invention, resulting from substitution of at least one of the amino acids constituting bFGF or an active derivative thereof by cysteine, can serve well as a pharmaceutical, since it has improved stability to acid conditions, heat conditions and so on. Thus, as the mutein of the present invention has a high stability, the mutein can be used as a medicine in a low dosage, the activity of the mutein is maintained for a long period of time, it is easy to handle to make a pharmaceutical preparation and it can be easily be administered to a living body.

20 Abbreviations for bases, amino acids and others used in the present specification and drawings attached thereto are based on abbreviations specified by the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature or abbreviations in common use in relevant fields. Some examples are given below. When an optical isomer may be present in amino acid, it is of the L-configuration, unless otherwise stated. Abbreviations are also listed.

25	DNA	: Deoxyribonucleic acid
	cDNA	: Complementary deoxyribonucleic acid
	A	: Adenine
	T	: Thymine
	G	: Guanine
30	C	: Cytosine
	RNA	: Ribonucleic acid
	dATP	: Deoxyadenosine triphosphate
	dTTP	: Deoxythymidine triphosphate
	dGTP	: Deoxyguanosine triphosphate
35	dCTP	: Deoxycytidine triphosphate
	ATP	: Adenosine triphosphate
	Tdr	: Thymidine
	EDTA	: Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
	SDS	: Sodium dodecyl sulfate
40	G, Gly	: Glycine
	A, Ala	: Alanine
	V, Val	: Valine
	L, Leu	: Leucine
	I, Ile	: Isoleucine
45	S, Ser	: Serine
	T, Thr	: Threonine
	C, Cys	: Cysteine
	M, Met	: Methionine
	E, Glu	: Glutamic acid
50	D, Asp	: Aspartic acid
	K, Lys	: Lysine
	R, Arg	: Arginine
	H, His	: Histidine
	F, Phe	: Phenylalanine
55	Y, Tyr	: Tyrosine
	W, Trp	: Tryptophan
	P, Pro	: Proline
	N, Asn	: Asparagine

Q. Gln : Glutamine
 PAGE : Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
 DMEM : Dulbecco modified Eagle's medium
 Tris : Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane
 5 HPLC : High performance liquid chromatography

In the present application, the amino acids in the amino acid sequence of human bFGF are numbered on the basis of the N-terminal Pro in the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1, which Pro residue is numbered 1. Amino acids in the amino acid sequence of bovine bFGF [Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, USA, 82, 6507 (1985)] are numbered on the basis of the N-terminal Pro, which Pro residue is numbered 1.

Of the transformants produced in the examples below, those having an accession number have been deposited at the Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (IFO) and the Fermentation Research Institute (FRI), Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Their accession numbers and dates of deposition are shown in Table 1 below. In Table 1, the depositions given a FERM BP number are based on the Budapest Treaty.

Table 1

Transformant	IFO	FRI
<i>E. coli</i> K12MM294 (DE3), pLysS, pBFM2 (Example 2)	IFO 15084 (August 28, 1990)	FERM BP-3372 (April 20, 1991)
<i>E. coli</i> MM294 (DE3), pLysS, pBFM4 (Example 4)	IFO 15276 (March 10, 1992)	FERM BP-3802 (March 18, 1992)
<i>E. coli</i> K12MM294 (DE3), pLysS, pBFM5 (Example 5)	IFO 15085 (August 28, 1990)	FERM BP-3371 (April 20, 1991)

Example 1 Construction of pUCN23, a plasmid having an NdeI site for site-directed mutagenesis

(1) Insertion of cDNA of hbFGF mutein CS23 into the plasmid vector pUC118B

A 0.5 kbp DNA fragment containing a cDNA of CS23 was obtained by digestion with restriction enzymes EcoRI and PstI from the phage vector M13mp8, incorporating a cDNA of the human bFGF mutein CS23 resulting from substitution of the 69- and 87-position Cys of human bFGF by Ser [M. Seno et al., Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 151, 701-708 (1988)] (hereinafter also abbreviated CS23). Next, the vector pUC118B, prepared by converting the HindIII site in the multicloning region of pUC118, a plasmid vector for preparing single-stranded chain, to a BglII site by site-directed mutagenesis (pUC118B is described as pTB891 in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2-209894/1990 which corresponds to EP-A-326, 907), was digested with EcoRI and PstI. The resulting fragment was ligated to the above-mentioned DNA fragment containing the CS23 gene, using T4 DNA ligase. The resulting DNA ligation product was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184. The resulting transformant cells were seeded over plates containing Xgal as the indicator, and then a white colony containing pUCB23, a recombinant plasmid resulting from accurate insertion of the CS23 gene into pUC118B, was selected. The clone thus obtained, when infected with the helper phage KO7, released in the medium single-stranded pUCB23 containing the plus strand of DNA which codes for the hbFGF mutein CS23, in the form of phage particles. This single-stranded DNA was purified and used as a template for site-directed mutagenesis. *Escherichia coli* MV1184 and the helper phage KO7, used here, are described by J. Vieira and J. Messing in Methods in Enzymology, 153, 3-11 (1987).

(2) Conversion of restriction enzyme EcoRI site to NdeI site

A method using the phage T7 RNA polymerase is known to serve well in the mass expression of foreign genes in *Escherichia coli* cells [F.W. Studier and B. A. Moffatt, Journal of Molecular Biology, 189, 113-130 (1986)]. For inserting the desired gene into pET3c, the expression plasmid used for this method, it is advantageous to have a restriction enzyme NdeI site in the upstream of the gene. To convert the EcoRI site in the immediate upstream of the translational initiation codon of the CS23 gene of pUCB23 obtained in

(1) to an NdeI site, the following oligonucleotide 1:

5'-TGCTGGCATATGATTCGTAATC-3'

NdeI

was synthesized (Figure 2 (a)). 50 pmol of this oligonucleotide was kept standing at 37 °C in the presence of 1 mM ATP, 50 mM Trishydroxymethylaminomethane hydrochloride (pH 8.0), 10 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) and 10 units of T4 kinase for 30 minutes to phosphorylate its 5'-OH terminal. With 4 pmol of this product in combination with 5 µg of the single-stranded chain pUCB23 prepared to contain the CS23 gene in (1) above for use as a template, mutation was induced using the Oligonucleotide-Directed In Vitro Mutagenesis System, Version 2 (a kit for site-directed mutagenesis produced by Amersham). The resulting double-stranded cyclic DNA was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184 to yield a large number of clones. After some of these clones were cultivated in 3 ml of a double-concentrated YT medium at 37 °C for 15 hours, the plasmid DNA was purified, and a clone was selected which yields no fragment even by digestion with the restriction enzymes EcoRI and BamHI, but yields a fragment by digestion with NdeI and BamHI. The plasmid pUCN23, resulting from conversion of the EcoRI site to an NdeI site in pUCB23, was thus obtained (Figures 3 and 4).

Example 2 Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM2 and its expression in *Escherichia coli*

Detailed observation of the three-dimensional structures of human bFGF and the hbFGF mutein CS23 revealed the presence of the side chain of the 118-position Leu residue in the vicinity of the side chain of the 25-position Cys residue. The inventors therefore considered it possible to allow the 25-position Cys to form a disulfide bond with the 118-position residue by replacing the 118-position Leu with Cys. The mutein resulting from conversion of the 118-position Leu to Cys was named BFM2. The method of producing its gene and its expression in *Escherichia coli* are described below.

(1) Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM2

First, to convert the codon of the 118-position Leu to the codon of Cys, the following oligonucleotide 2:

5'-CAGTTCGTTTGCATGCCACATAC-3'

SphI

was synthesized (Figure 2 (b)). Using this synthetic oligonucleotide (4 pmol), whose 5'-OH terminal was previously phosphorylated by T4 kinase treatment, and the single-stranded pUCN23 (5 µg) prepared in Example 1 (2), a mutated plasmid was obtained using the site-directed mutagenesis kit described in Example 1. The resulting plasmid was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184, which was then seeded on an agar plate of a double-concentrated YT medium containing 150 µg/ml ampicillin and cultivated at 37 °C for 15 hours to yield a large number of colonies. From 6 of these colonies, a small amount of cells was collected and cultivated in 0.3 ml of a double-concentrated YT medium about 5 hours. 30 µl of this culture broth and 30 µl of a solution containing the helper phage KO7, were mixed and kept standing at 37 °C for 1 hour, followed by overnight cultivation in the presence of 3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium. The culture broth was centrifuged to separate the supernatant from the cells. From the cells, the plasmid was crudely purified by the alkalilysis method; from the supernatant, a single-stranded DNA in the form of phage particles was recovered by a conventional method.

The oligonucleotide 2 contains a restriction enzyme SphI recognition site, not present in the gene which codes for the hbFGF mutein CS23, to serve as a template.

Consequently, when the correctly mutated plasmid is reacted with SphI, a 121 bp fragment should occur as a result of cleavage at two sites, namely the SphI site newly formed by mutation and the original SphI site in the multicloning region of pUC118B. The plasmids obtained from the six colonies described above were digested with SphI and analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis: the presence of correct-sized fragments in two clones was confirmed.

Using the single-stranded plasmids of these two clones as templates, the base sequences were

analyzed by the dideoxy method; induction of the desired mutation was confirmed.

The thus-obtained plasmid containing the gene which codes for BFM2 was named pUCBFM2 (Figure 5).

5 (2) Construction of plasmid pBFM2 for expression in *Escherichia coli*

The plasmid pUCBFM2 obtained in (1) was digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BglII to yield an about 0.5 kbp fragment which codes for the mutein BFM2. After purification by agarose gel electrophoresis, this fragment was ligated to the expression plasmid vector pET3c [F. W. Stadler et al., Methods in
10 Enzymology, 195, 60-89 (1990)], previously digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BamHI, by T4 ligase. In this case, the cohesive end resulting from BglII digestion of the DNA fragment which codes for the mutein and the cohesive end resulting from BamHI digestion of pET3c are perfectly mutually complementary; the desired cyclic DNA should emerge by ligase treatment. It should be noted, however, that neither restriction enzyme can cause cleavage after ligation of the BglII and BamHI sites. The expression plasmid
15 thus obtained was named pBFM2 (Figure 6).

The λ phage DE3 [F. W. Stadler et al., Journal of Molecular Biology, 189, 113-130 (1986)], incorporating the RNA polymerase gene of T7 phage, was lysogenized to *Escherichia coli* MM294 strain, followed by introduction of the plasmid pLysS [F. W. Stadler et al., Journal of Molecular Biology, 189, 113-130 (1986)], having the lysozyme gene of T7 phage, to yield *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS strain.

20 The plasmid pBFM2 was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS to yield *E. coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS, pBFM2 (IFO 15084, FERM BP-3372), a transformant having a plasmid containing the mutein-encoding gene shown in Figure 7.

(3) Expression of mutein BFM2

25 Cells of the thus-obtained transformant *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS, pBFM2 were cultivated overnight in 3 ml of an LB medium containing 35 μ g/ml ampicillin and 10 μ g/ml chloramphenicol. A 2.5 ml portion of this culture broth was added to 50 ml of the same medium (containing 35 μ g/ml ampicillin, 10 μ g/ml chloramphenicol) and cultivated at 37°C for 2 hours. When the Klett value reached 130, isopropyl β -D-galactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to reach a final concentration of 0.3 mM, followed by additional 3
30 hours of cultivation. Before IPTG addition and after 3 hours of cultivation, an aliquot of the culture broth was centrifuged. Cells were collected and analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) under reducing conditions; induction of expression of the mutein BFM2 by the addition of IPTG was confirmed. Also, immunoblotting confirmed that the expressed protein binds specifically to the anti-bFGF antibody [M. Seno et al., Hybridoma, 8, 209-221 (1989)].
35

(4) FGF activity of cell extract

40 The cells caused to express the mutein in (2) above were suspended in a 0°C buffer containing 10% sucrose, 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 10 mM EDTA, 0.2 M NaCl and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF). To this suspension was added lysozyme to a final concentration of 0.1 mg/ml; this mixture was kept standing at 0°C for 30 to 45 minutes, followed by 30 seconds of sonication. This solution was centrifuged at a centrifugal force of about 20,000 g for 30 minutes; the resulting supernatant was used as a cell extract.

45 Mouse BALB/c3T3 cells were seeded and cultivated on 96-well microtiter plates (flat-based) containing a DMEM medium containing 5% fetal calf serum, at a density of 2×10^3 cells per well. On the following day, the medium was replaced with a DMEM medium containing 0.5% fetal calf serum. After 3 days of cultivation, 10 μ l of each of a series of dilutions, diluted in 5-fold steps (50 to 500 folds) of the above-mentioned cell extract with a DMEM medium containing 0.5% BSA, was added to the cell culture broth.
50 After cultivation for further 18 more hours, 2 μ l of 3 H-Tdr (5 Ci/mmol, 0.5 mCi/ml, RCC Amersham) was added to each well. After 6 hours, the culture broth was totally replaced with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) to wash the cells. After the PBS was aspirated, 100 μ l of 5% SDS solution was added. The mixture was kept standing overnight at 37°C to completely lyse the cells, after which the amount of 3 H-Tdr taken into the cells was estimated by liquid scintillation counter for an index of the cell growth-promoting activity
55 of FGF. As a standard, bovine pituitary derived FGF (Takara Shuzo, Japan) was used.

The extract from *E. coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS, pBFM2 was found to possess FGF activity.

A mutein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 7, resulting from replacement of the 69-position Cys and the 87-position Cys by Ser and the 118-position Leu by Cys in human bFGF, was thus

obtained.

Example 3 Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM3 and its expression in *Escherichia coli*

5 Detailed observation of the three-dimensional structures of human bFGF and the human bFGF mutein CS23 revealed the presence of the side chain of the 139-position Phe residue in the vicinity of the side chain of the 25-position Cys residue. The inventors therefore considered it possible to allow the 139-position residue to form a disulfide bond with the 25-position Cys by replacing the 139-position Phe by Cys. The mutein resulting from conversion of the 139-position Phe to Cys was named BFM3. The method of
10 producing its gene and its expression in *Escherichia coli* are described below.

(1) Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM3

First, to convert the codon of the 139-position Phe to the codon of Cys, the following oligonucleotide 3:
15 5'-CATTGGAAGACAAAGTATAGC-3'
was synthesized (Figure 2 (c)). Using this synthetic oligonucleotide (4 pmol), whose 5'-OH terminal was previously phosphorylated by T4 kinase treatment, and the single-stranded pUCN23 (5 µg) prepared in Example 1 (2), a mutated plasmid was obtained using the site-directed mutagenesis kit described in Example 1. The resulting plasmid was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184. Cells of the resulting
20 transformant were seeded on an agar plate of a double-concentrated YT medium containing 150 µg/ml ampicillin and cultivated at 37°C for 15 hours to yield a large number of colonies. From 3 of these colonies, a small amount of cells was collected and cultivated in 0.3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium for about 5 hours. 30 µl of this culture broth and 30 µl of a solution containing the helper phage KO7 were mixed and kept standing at 37°C for 1 hour, followed by overnight cultivation in the presence of 3 ml of double-
25 concentrated YT medium. The culture broth was centrifuged to separate the supernatant from the cells. From the cells, the plasmid was crudely purified by the alkali lysis method; from the supernatant, the single-stranded DNA in the form of phage particles was recovered by a conventional method.

Using the single-stranded plasmid as a template, the base sequence was analyzed by the dideoxy method; a single clone incorporating the desired mutation was thus identified.

30 The thus-obtained plasmid containing the BFM3-encoding gene was named pUCBFM3 (Figure 8).

(2) Construction of plasmid pBFM3 for expression in *Escherichia coli*

The plasmid pUCBFM3 obtained in (1) was digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BglII to yield an
35 about 0.5 kbp fragment which codes for the mutein BFM3. After purification by agarose gel electrophoresis, this fragment was ligated to the expression plasmid vector pET3c [F. W. Stadler et al., Methods in Enzymology, 195, 60-89 (1990)], previously digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BamHI, using T4 ligase. In this case, the cohesive end resulting from BglII digestion of the DNA fragment which codes for the mutein and the cohesive end resulting from BamHI digestion of pET3c are perfectly mutually complemen-
40 tary; the desired cyclic DNA should emerge by ligase treatment. It should be noted, however, that neither restriction enzyme can cause cleavage after ligation of the BglII and BamHI sites. The expression plasmid thus obtained was named pBFM3 (Figure 9).

The plasmid pBFM3 was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3):pLysS to yield *E. coli* MM294(DE3):pLysS, pBFM3 a transformant having a plasmid containing the mutein-encoding gene shown
45 in Figure 10.

(3) Expression of mutein BFM3

Escherichia coli MM294(DE3):pLysS, pBFM3 was cultivated overnight in 3 ml of an LB medium
50 containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin and 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol. A 2.5 ml portion of this culture broth was added to 50 ml of the same medium (containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin, 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol) and cultivated at 37°C for 2 hours. When the Klett value reached 130, isopropyl βD-galactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to reach a final concentration of 0.3 mM, followed by 3 additional hours of cultivation. Before
55 IPTG addition and after 3 hours of cultivation, an aliquot of the culture broth was centrifuged. Cells were collected and analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) under reducing conditions; induction of expression of the mutein BFM3 by the addition of IPTG was confirmed (Figure 17). Also, immunoblotting confirmed that the expressed protein binds specifically to the anti-bFGF antibody [M. Seno et al., Hybridoma, 8, 209-221 (1989)]. (Figure 18)

(4) FGF activity of cell extract

From the cells caused to express the mutein as described in (2) above, a cell extract was prepared by the method described in Example 2 (3), followed by determination of FGF activity by the method described in Example 2(4). As a result, the extract of the bacterial cell MM294(DE3):pLys. pBFM3 was found to possess FGF activity.

A mutein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 10, resulting from replacement of the 69-position Cys and the 87-position Cys by Ser and the 139-position Phe by Cys in human bFGF, was thus obtained.

Example 4 Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM4 and its expression in *Escherichia coli*

Detailed observation of the three-dimensional structures of human bFGF and the human bFGF mutein CS23 revealed the presence of the side chain of the 75-position Ala residue in the vicinity of the side chain of the 92-position Cys residue. The inventors therefore considered it possible to allow the 75-position residue to form a disulfide bond with the 92-position Cys by replacing the 75-position Ala with Cys. The mutein resulting from conversion of the 75-position Ala to Cys was named BFM4. The method of producing its gene and its expression in *Escherichia coli* are described below.

(1) Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM4

First, to convert the codon of the 75-position Ala to the codon of Cys, the following oligonucleotide 4:

5'-TTCCTTCATACACAGGTAACGA-3'

was synthesized (Figure 2 (d)). Using this synthetic oligonucleotide (4 pmol), whose 5'-OH terminal was previously phosphorylated by T4 kinase treatment, and the single-stranded pUCN23 (5 µg) prepared in Example 1 (2), a mutated plasmid was obtained using the site-directed mutagenesis kit described in Example 1. The resulting plasmid was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184. Cells of the resulting transformant were seeded on an agar plate of a double-concentrated YT medium containing 150 µg/ml ampicillin and cultivated at 37°C for 15 hours to yield a large number of colonies. From 6 of these colonies, a small amount of cells was collected and cultivated in 0.3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium for about 5 hours. 30 µl of this culture broth and 30 µl of a solution containing the helper phage KO7 were mixed and kept standing at 37°C for 1 hour, followed by overnight cultivation in the presence of 3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium. The culture broth was centrifuged to separate the supernatant from the cells. From the cells, the plasmid was crudely purified by the alkalylisis method; from the supernatant, single-stranded DNA in the form of phage particles was recovered by a conventional method.

Using the single-stranded plasmid as templates, the base sequences were analyzed by the dideoxy method; three clones incorporating the desired mutation were thus identified.

The thus-obtained plasmid containing the BFM4-encoding gene was named pUCBFM4 (Figure 11).

(2) Construction of plasmid pBFM4 for expression in *Escherichia coli*

The plasmid pUCBFM4 obtained in (1) was digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BglII to yield an about 0.5 kbp fragment which codes for the mutein-BFM4. After purification by agarose gel electrophoresis, this fragment was ligated to the expression plasmid vector pET3c [F. W. Stadler et al., Methods in Enzymology, 195, 60-89 (1990)], previously digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BamHI, by T4 ligase. In this case, the cohesive end resulting from BglII digestion of the mutein-encoding DNA fragment and the cohesive end resulting from BamHI digestion of pET3c are perfectly mutually complementary; the desired cyclic DNA should emerge by ligase treatment. It should be noted, however, that neither restriction enzyme can cause cleavage after ligation of the BglII and BamHI sites. The expression plasmid thus obtained was named pBFM4 (Figure 12).

The plasmid pBFM4 was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3):pLysS to yield *E. coli* MM294(DE3):pLysS. pBFM4 (IFO 15276, FERM BP-3802), a transformant having a plasmid containing the mutein-encoding gene shown in Figure 13.

(3) Expression of mute in BFM4

Cells of the transformant *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3):pLysS. pBFM4 were cultivated in 3 ml of an LB medium containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin and 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol overnight. A 2.5 ml portion of this

culture broth was added to 50 ml of the same medium (containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin, 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol) and cultivated at 37 °C for 2 hours. When the Klett value reached 130, isopropyl β-D-galactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to reach a final concentration of 0.3 mM, followed by additional 3 hours of cultivation. Before IPTG addition and after 3 hours of cultivation, an aliquot of the culture broth was centrifuged. Cells were collected and analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) under reducing conditions: induction of expression of the mutein BFM4 by the addition of IPTG was confirmed (Figure 17). Also, immunoblotting confirmed that the expressed protein binds specifically to the anti-bFGF antibody [M. Seno et al., Hybridoma, 8, 209-221 (1989)] (Figure 18).

10 (4) FGF activity of cell extract

From the cells caused to express the mutein as described in (2) above, a cell extract was prepared by the method described in Example 2 (3), followed by determination of FGF activity by the method described in Example 2 (4). The extract from cells of MM294(DE3) pLys. pBFM4 was found to possess FGF activity.

15 A mutein having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 12, resulting from replacement of the 69-position Cys and the 87-position Cys by Ser and the 75-position Ala by Cys in human bFGF, was thus obtained.

Example 5 Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM5 and its expression in *Escherichia coli*

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Detailed observation of the three-dimensional structures of human bFGF and the human bFGF mutein CS23 revealed the presence of the side chain of the 85-position Ser residue in the vicinity of the side chain of the 92-position Cys residue. The inventors therefore considered it possible to allow the 85-position residue to form a disulfide bond with the 92-position Cys by replacing the 85-position Ser with Cys. The mutein resulting from conversion of the 85-position Ser to Cys was named BFM5. The method of producing its gene and its expression in *Escherichia coli* are described below.

(1) Production of gene which codes for mutein BFM5

30 First, to convert the codon of the 85-position Ser to the codon of Cys, the following oligonucleotide 5:

5'-AACAGACTTGCATGCTAGTAATCT-3'

SphI

35

was synthesized (Figure 2 (e)). Using this synthetic oligonucleotide (4 pmol), whose 5'-OH terminal was previously phosphorylated by T4 kinase treatment, and the single-stranded pUCN23 (5 µg) prepared in Example 1 (2), a mutated plasmid was obtained using the site-directed mutagenesis kit described in Example 1. The resulting plasmid was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MV1184. Cells of the resulting transformant were seeded on an agar plate of a double-concentrated YT medium containing 150 µg/ml ampicillin and cultivated at 37 °C for 15 hours to yield a large number of colonies. From 6 of these colonies, a small amount of cells was collected and cultivated for about 5 hours in 0.3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium. 30 µl of this culture broth and 30 µl of a solution containing the helper phage KO7 were mixed and kept standing at 37 °C for 1 hour, followed by overnight cultivation in the presence of 3 ml of double-concentrated YT medium. The culture broth was centrifuged to separate the supernatant from the cells. From the cells, the plasmid was crudely purified by the alkali method; from the supernatant, the single-stranded DNA in the form of phage particles was recovered by a conventional method.

The oligonucleotide 5 contains a restriction enzyme SphI recognition site, not present in the gene, which codes for the hbFGF mutein CS23 to serve as a template.

Consequently, when the correctly mutated plasmid is reacted with SphI, a 220 bp fragment should occur as a result of cleavage at two sites, namely the SphI site newly formed by mutation and the original SphI site in the multicloning region of pUC118B. The plasmids obtained from the 6 colonies described above were digested with SphI and analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis: the presence of a correctly located fragment was confirmed in two clones.

Using the single-stranded plasmids of these two clones as templates, the base sequences were analyzed by the dideoxy method: the clones were found to incorporate the desired mutation.

The thus-obtained plasmid containing the BFM5-encoding gene was named pUCBFM5 (Figure 14).

(2) Construction of plasmid pBFM5 for expression in *Escherichia coli*

The plasmid pUCBFM5 obtained in (1) was digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BglII to yield an about 0.5 kbp fragment which codes for the mutein BFM5. After purification by agarose gel electrophoresis, this fragment was ligated to the expression plasmid vector pET3c [F. W. Stadler et al., Methods in Enzymology, 195, 60-89 (1990)], previously digested with restriction enzymes NdeI and BamHI, using T4 ligase. In this case, the cohesive end resulting from BglII digestion of the mutein-encoding DNA fragment and the cohesive end resulting from BamHI digestion of pET3c are perfectly mutually complementary; the desired cyclic DNA should emerge by ligase treatment. It should be noted, however, that neither restriction enzyme can cause cleavage after ligation of the BglII and BamHI sites. The expression plasmid thus obtained was named pBFM5 (Figure 15).

The plasmid pBFM5 was used to transform *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)-pLysS to yield *E. coli* MM294(DE3)-pLysS. pBFM5 (IFO 15085, FERM BP-3371), a transformant having a plasmid containing the mutein-encoding gene shown in Figure 16.

(3) Expression of mutein BFM5

Cells of the thus-obtained transformant *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)-pLysS. pBFM5 were cultivated overnight in 3 ml of an LB medium containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin and 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol. A 2.5 ml portion of this culture broth was added to 50 ml of the same medium (containing 35 µg/ml ampicillin, 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol) and cultivated at 37 °C for 2 hours. When the Klett value reached 130, isopropyl β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to reach a final concentration of 0.3 mM, followed by further 3 hours of cultivation. Before IPTG addition and after 3 hours of cultivation, an aliquot of the culture broth was centrifuged. Cells were collected and analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) under reducing conditions; induction of expression of the mutein BFM5 by the addition of IPTG was confirmed (Figure 17). Also, immunoblotting confirmed that the expressed protein binds specifically to the anti-bFGF antibody [M. Seno et al., Hybridoma 8, 209-221 (1989)] (Figure 18).

(4) FGF activity of cell extract

From the cells caused to express the mutein as described in (2) above, a cell extract was prepared by the method described in Example 2 (3), followed by determination of FGF activity by the method described in Example 2 (4). The extract from cells of the transformant MM294(DE3)-pLysS. pBFM5 was found to possess FGF activity.

The mutein shown in Figure 16, resulting from replacement of the 69-position Cys and the 87-position Cys by Ser and the 85-position Ser by Cys in human bFGF, was thus obtained.

Example 6 Purification of mutein BFM5

(1) Cultivation of producer bacterium

Escherichia coli MM294(DE3)-pLysS. pBFM5, which expresses the mutein BFM5, obtained in Example 5, was seeded to 50 ml of an LB medium containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin and 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol and cultivated at 30 °C overnight. This culture broth was added to 1 l of the same medium containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin and 10 µg/ml chloramphenicol and subjected to shaking culture at 30 °C for about 2 hours. When the Klett value reached about 130, isopropyl β-D-galactopyranoside (IPTG) was added to reach a final concentration of 0.1 mM. After 3 more hours of cultivation at 30 °C, the culture broth was centrifuged at a centrifugal force of about 3000 g for 10 minutes to yield an about 5 g of wet cells.

(2) Purification of mutein

About 5 g of the wet cells obtained in (1) were re-suspended in 30 ml of a buffer containing 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 10% (w/v) sucrose, 10 mM EDTA, 0.2 M NaCl and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) under ice cooling conditions; egg-white lysozyme was added to reach a final concentration of 0.1 mg/ml. After stirring, the mixture was kept standing at 0 °C for 1 hour, followed by addition of dithiothreitol (DTT) to reach a final concentration of 10 mM. While the temperature was kept constant at 0 °C, solution viscosity was reduced by sonication, followed by centrifugation at a centrifugal force of about 20,000 g for 40 minutes to yield 30 ml of supernatant. The resulting supernatant was passed through a column (20 ml) of

QAE-Toyopearl (Tosoh Corporation), previously equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) buffer. The effluent and the solution eluted by column washing with 15 ml of 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) buffer were combined. Since gradual precipitation occurred, further centrifugation was performed at a centrifugal force of about 20,000 g for 30 minutes to yield 45 ml of supernatant. This supernatant was passed through a column (40 ml) of CM-Toyopearl (Tosoh Corporation), previously equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl, to adsorb the mutein to the column. After column washing with about 130 ml of a buffer containing 0.1 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and 2 mM DTT, elution was conducted with a buffer containing 1.0 M NaCl, 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and 5 mM DTT. The fractions from 15 ml to 45 ml in elution volume were combined, and after adding 30 ml of 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) to reduce its salt concentration, the mixture was subjected to heparin affinity chromatography. The column used was Shodex AFpak HR-894 (Showa Denko). This column, previously equilibrated with 20 ml of Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), was washed with 0.5 M NaCl and 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) after applying the sample, followed by elution on an NaCl density gradient from 0.5 M to 2.0 M. The mutein was eluted into a single peak at an NaCl concentration of about 1.3 M. After the peak fraction was concentrated using an ultrafiltration membrane, it was subjected to gel filtration using Sephadex G-25 (Pharmacia) to replace the buffer with 20 mM sodium citrate (pH 6.5), to yield a purified product. The concentration of the purified product was determined to be 0.941 mg/ml with a yield of 9.88 mg, on the assumption that the molecular extinction coefficient at 280 nm is 13900. This preparation showed a single band (Figure 19) in polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS-PAGE), and had specific activity equivalent to that of bFGF derived from the bovine pituitary gland, as determined by the 3T3 cell growth-promoting activity determination method described in Example 2(4). Also, this preparation was subjected to amino acid analysis after hydrochloric acid hydrolysis, with performic acid oxidation added before hydrolysis where necessary. As shown in Table 2, the determined amino acid composition agreed substantially with the correct amino acid composition expected from the base sequence shown in Figure 16.

Table 2

Amino acid composition of purified BFM5		
Amino acid	Analytical value	Value expected from Figure 16
Asp	12	12
Thr	4.5	5
Ser	10.1	11
Glu	12.3	12
Pro	8.8	9
Gly	14.7	15
Ala	8.7	9
CysO ₃ H	3.1	3
Val	6.6	7
Met	1.9	2
Ile	4.0	4
Leu	13.4	13
Tyr	7.1	7
Phe	8.0	8
Lys	14.2	14
His	3.0	3
Arg	10.9	11
Trp	0.8	1

This analysis was conducted after the mutein was hydrolyzed in 6 N hydrochloric acid containing 4% thioglycolic acid at 110°C for 24 hours and 48 hours. Cysteine was quantitated as cysteic acid after performic acid oxidation. The values for serine and threonine were obtained by extrapolating the 0-hour value from the 24- and 48-hour values.

Example 7 Purification of mutein BFM4

(1) Cultivation of producer bacterium

The *Escherichia coli* MM294(DE3)pLysS.pBFM4 obtained in Example 4 was cultivated to express BFM4 in accordance with the method described in Example 6 (1). About 5 g of wet cells were obtained from 1 liter of culture broth by centrifugation.

5 (2) Purification of mutein

The wet cells obtained in (1) were treated in the same manner as described in Example 6 (2) to finally yield 9.97 mg of purified BFM4. This preparation gave a single band in SDS-PAGE (Figure 20-A), having a specific activity of $121 \pm 28\%$ relative to bGFG derived from the bovine pituitary gland, as determined by the bioassay described in Example 2 (4).

In Figure 20-A, lanes 1 through 5 show the results respectively from molecular weight markers (97.4 k, 66.2 k, 45.0 k, 31.0 k, 21.5 k, 14.4 k from above), a QAE-Toyopearl column effluent fraction (4.5 μ l), a CM-Toyopearl column eluate (3-fold dilution, 10 μ l), a CM-Toyopearl column eluate (3-fold dilution, 3.5 μ l), and the purified preparation (1.0 μ g).

This preparation was subjected to amino acid analysis after hydrochloric acid hydrolysis. Performic acid oxidation was carried out before hydrolysis to determine Cys content. The results are shown in the column "Before oxidation" in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, this preparation had an amino acid composition agreeing almost completely with the correct amino acid composition expected from the DNA sequence.

20 Example 8 Oxidation of mutein BFM4

The amount of SH groups contained in the purified preparation of mutein BFM4 obtained in Example 7 was determined by the method using 5,5'-dithiobis-(2-nitrobenzoic acid) [J. Sedlak and R. H. Lindsay, Anal. Biochem., 25, 192-205 (1968)]. In the presence of 6 M guanidine hydrochloride, 2.8 SH groups per mutein molecule were detected. It was therefore speculated that none of the three cysteine residues in the amino acid sequence had formed an S-S bond. Then, an attempt was made to artificially form an S-S bond using a glutathione redox buffer. In the description below, the molecule wherein all the SH groups in the three cysteine residues are in a reduced state is referred to as reduced BFM4, and the molecule wherein an intramolecular S-S bond has been formed between the 75- and 92-position cysteine residues oxidized BFM4.

Examination revealed that S-S bonds can be efficiently formed by preparing an aqueous solution with the final composition of about 0.3 mg/ml reduced BFM4, 1 mM oxidized glutathione, 0.2 mM reduced glutathione, 1 mM EDTA, 2 M urea and 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 3.0) in an atmosphere containing a minimum amount of air oxygen and keeping it standing at 15°C for about 24 hours. Because reduced BFM4 and oxidized BFM4 elute separately in reverse phase HPLC, it was easy to analyze the progress of the oxidizing reaction. However, this method could not be used to purify oxidized BFM4 because the BFM4 eluted by reverse phase HPLC had partially lost its activity. The reverse phase HPLC elution patterns of BFM4 obtained before and after oxidation are shown in Figure 21 (A) and (B). The column used was TSK gel ODS-120T (4.6 mm dia. \times 250 mm), produced by Tosoh Corporation. The mobile phases used were a 0.1% aqueous solution of trifluoroacetic acid and acetonitrile containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid. Elution was conducted while increasing the acetonitrile concentration from 30% to 38% over a period of 16 minutes. The sample was detected by absorbance at 230 nm.

After completion of oxidation, a small amount of citric acid was added to obtain a pH of 6.5; the buffer was replaced with 50 mM sodium citrate (pH 6.5) by gel filtration using Sephadex G-25. Finally, concentration to 0.78 mg/ml was conducted using an ultrafiltration membrane (Diaflo YM5, produced by Amicon Corporation).

The BFM4 thus oxidized was found to contain 1.0 SH group per molecule. Also, in SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions, the BFM4 gave almost no band corresponding to the dimer having an inter-molecular S-S bond (Figure 20-B).

In Figure 20-B, lanes 1 through 3 show the results respectively from molecular weight markers (97.4 k, 66.2 k, 45.0 k, 31.0 k, 21.5 k, 14.4 k from above), BFM4 before oxidation (1.0 μ g), and BFM4 after oxidation (1.0 μ g).

In the non-reducing SDS-PAGE procedure, electrophoresis was conducted in the same manner as ordinary SDS-PAGE after the sample, mixed with Laemmli's buffer free of 2-mercaptoethanol, was kept standing at room temperature for 10 minutes.

The amino acid composition of the oxidized BFM4 obtained above is shown in the column "After oxidation" in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, the amino acid composition remained unchanged after oxidation; it was thus confirmed that any undesirable modification, such as glutathione addition, had

occurred in the oxidized BFM4. Bioassay as described in Example 2 (4) revealed that the specific activity of oxidized BFM4 was $115 \pm 13\%$ relative to bFGF derived from the bovine pituitary gland.

Oxidized BFM4, a bFGF mutein having an intramolecular S-S bond while retaining its activity was thus obtained.

Table 3

Amino Acid Composition of BFM4 before and after Oxidation			
Amino acid	Before oxidation	After oxidation	Value expected from the base sequence
Asp	12	12	12
Thr	4.4	4.4	5
Ser	10.2	10.0	12
Glu	12.3	12.3	12
Pro	9.0	9.0	9
Gly	14.7	14.8	15
Ala	8.0	8.0	8
CysO ₂ H	3.6	2.9	3
Val	6.5	6.5	7
Met	2.2	2.3	2
Ile	3.7	3.7	4
Leu	13.3	13.3	13
Tyr	6.8	6.7	7
Phe	8.3	8.3	8
Lys	13.6	13.6	14
His	2.9	2.9	3
Arg	10.7	10.7	11
Trp	0.8	0.5	1

This amino acid analysis was conducted after the sample was hydrolyzed in 6 N hydrochloric acid containing 4% thioglycolic acid at 110°C for 24 hours. Cysteine was quantified as cysteic acid after performic acid oxidation.

Example 9 Stability of oxidized BFM4 to acid

The following experiment was conducted to compare human bFGF (hereinafter referred to as hbFGF), having a wild type sequence, the hbFGF mutein CS23, and oxidized BFM4, with respect to stability under acidic conditions.

Recombinant hbFGF was prepared in accordance with the method described in literature [M. Iwane et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 146, 470-477 (1987)], and used in a 0.57 mg/ml solution in a 50 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 6.5) containing 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT). The hbFGF mutein CS23 was prepared in accordance with the method described in literature [M. Seno et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 151, 701-708 (1988)], and used in a 1.00 mg/ml solution in a 50 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 6.5). The oxidized BFM4 used was prepared as directed in Example 8.

hbFGF, the hbFGF mutein CS23, and oxidized BFM4 were each diluted with acidic buffer A (5 mM Gly-HCl, pH 2.0, 165 mM NaCl) to a final concentration of 10 µg/ml under ice cooling conditions. A 300 µl portion of each solution was transferred to a 1.5 ml polypropylene microtest tube and kept standing at 37°C. After 15, 30, 60 and 120 minutes, a 10 µl sample was taken from each tube and immediately 100 fold diluted with DMEM containing 0.1% BSA (0°C) to neutralize the acid. After neutralization, each solution

was subjected to bioassay as such. Separately, the three proteins were each diluted with DMEM containing 0.1% BSA in place of acidic buffer A, the resulting solution was subjected to bioassay in accordance with the method described in Example 2(4). The figure obtained in the latter bioassay was taken as 0-minute activity, based on which residual activity in each sample after acid treatment was determined. The results are shown in Figure 22. In Figure 22, ▲ denotes the results of oxidized BFM4, ○ denotes the results of hbFGF muterin (S23 and ● denotes the results of hbFGF.

Oxidized BFM4 proved much stabler to acid treatment than hbFGF and still stabler to acid than the hbFGF muterin CS23.

Example 10 Stability of oxidized BFM4 to heat

The following experiment was conducted to compare oxidized BFM4, hbFGF and the hbFGF muterin CS23 with respect to thermal stability under neutral pH conditions.

The hbFGF, the hbFGF muterin CS23 and oxidized BFM4 used were the same as used in Example 9. These materials were each diluted with PBS (phosphate buffered saline), pH 7.4, to a final concentration of 10 μ l/ml under ice cooling conditions. A 300 μ l portion of each solution was transferred to a 1.5 ml polypropylene microtest tube and kept standing at 50°C. After 0, 30, 60, 120 and 180 minutes, a 10 μ l sample was taken from each tube and immediately 100 fold diluted with DMEM containing 0.1% BSA (0°C) and subjected to bioassay. Relative to the activity obtained at 0 minute, taken as 100%, the residual activity in each sample after heat treatment was determined. The results are shown in Figure 23. In Figure 23, ▲ denotes the results of oxidized BFM4, ○ denotes the results of hbFGF muterin CS23 and ● denotes the results of hbFGF.

Oxidized BFM4 proved stabler to heat than both of hbFGF and the hbFGF muterin CS23.

Claims

1. A muterin resulting from substitution of a first cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or an acid derivative thereof.
2. A muterin in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first cysteine introduced by substitution is located at a position to form a disulfide bond with a second cysteine.
3. A muterin in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the second cysteine is one which constitutes bFGF.
4. A muterin in accordance with Claim 1, where an even number of cysteines are introduced by substitution at positions to form at least one disulfide bond.
5. A muterin in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the second cysteine is located at the 25-or the 92-position of bFGF.
6. A muterin in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the first cysteine is introduced by substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of the 75-, the 85-, the 118-, and the 139-positions of bFGF.
7. A muterin in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said cysteines are introduced by substitutions at a position selected from the group consisting of the 20 and 52-positions, the 21- and 142-positions, the 27- and 135-positions, the 33- and 50-positions, the 49- and 69-positions, and the 81- and 126-positions of bFGF.
8. A muterin in accordance with Claim 2, wherein an intramolecular disulfide bond has been formed between two cysteine residues.
9. A recombinant DNA having a base sequence which codes for the muterin of claim 1.
10. A vector containing the recombinant DNA of claim 9.
11. A transformant carrying the vector of claim 10.
12. A method of producing the muterin of claim 1, which comprises cultivating the transformant of claim 11

in a culture medium

13. A method of producing the mutein of claim 8, which comprises subjecting the mutein of Claim 2 to oxidation reaction.
14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein in accordance with Claim 1 as an active ingredient in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a healing action for the treatment of burns, wounds, postoperative tissue healing.
15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein in accordance with Claim 1 as an active ingredient in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a therapeutic action on thrombosis and arteriosclerosis.

Claims for the following Contracting States : GR, ES

1. A method for producing a mutein resulting from substitution of a first cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or an acid derivative thereof, which comprises cultivating a transformant carrying a vector containing a recombinant DNA having a base sequence which codes for said mutein in a culture medium.
2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first cysteine introduced by substitution is located at a position to form a disulfide bond with a second cysteine.
3. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the second cysteine is one which constitutes bFGF.
4. A method in accordance with Claim 1, where an even number of cysteines are introduced by substitution at positions to form at least one disulfide bond.
5. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the second cysteine is located at the 25- or the 92-position of bFGF.
6. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the first cysteine is introduced by substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of the 75-, the 85-, the 118-, and the 139-positions of bFGF.
7. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said cysteines are introduced by substitutions at a position selected from the group consisting of the 20 and 52- positions, the 21- and 142-positions, the 27- and 135-positions, the 33- and 50-positions, the 49- and 69-positions, and the 81- and 126-positions of bFGF.
8. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein an intramolecular disulfide bond has been formed between two cysteine residues.
9. A method for producing a mutein resulting from substitution of a first cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or an acid derivative thereof and the first cysteine introduced by substitution is located at a position to form a disulfide bond with a second cysteine and a disulfide bond has been formed between two cysteine residues, which comprises subjecting a mutein resulting from substitution of a first cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting bFGF, or an acid derivative thereof and the first cysteine introduced by substitution is located at a position to form a disulfide bond with a second cysteine to an oxidation reaction.
10. A method for producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein resulting from substitution of a first cysteine for at least one of the amino acids constituting basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or an acid derivative thereof as an active ingredient for healing action for the treatment of burns, wounds, postoperative tissue healing, which comprises mixing the mutein with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
11. A method for producing pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a mutein

resulting from substitution of a first cystein for at least one of the amino acids constituting basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or an acid derivative thereof as an active ingredient for a therapeutic action on thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, which comprises mixing the mutein with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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Fig. 1

¹ ProAlaLeuProGluAspGlyGlySerGlyAlaPheProProGlyHisPheLysAsp
 ATGCCAGCATTTGCCCGAGGATGGCGGCAGCGGCCCTTCCCGCCGCCACTTCAAGGAC
²⁰ ProLysArgLeuTyrCysLysAsnGlyGlyPhePheLeuArgIleHisProAspGlyArg
 CCCAAGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAACGGGGGCTTCTTCTGCGCATCCACCCGACGGCCGA
⁴⁰ ValAspGlyValArgGluLysSerAspProHisIleLysLeuGlnLeuGlnAlaGluGlu
 GTTGACGGGTCCCGGAGAGAGCGACCTCACATCAAGCTACAACCTCAAGCAGAGAG
⁶⁰ ArgGlyValValSerIleLysGlyValCysAlaAsnArgTyrLeuAlaMetLysGluAsp
 AGAGGAGTTGTGTCTATCAAGGAGTGTGTGCTAACCGTTACCTGGCTATGAGGAAGAT
⁸⁰ GlyArgLeuLeuAlaSerLysCysValThrAspGluCysPhePheGluArgLeuGlu
 GGAAGATTACTGGCTTCTAAATGTGTTACGGATGAGTGTCTCTTTTGAACGATTGGAA
¹⁰⁰ SerAsnAsnTyrAsnThrTyrArgSerArgLysTyrThrSerTrpTyrValAlaLeuLys
 TCTAATAACTACAATACTTACCGGTCAAGGAAATACACCACTTGGTATGTGGCACTGAAA
¹²⁰ ArgThrGlyGlnTyrLysLeuGlySerLysThrGlyProGlyGlnLysAlaIleLeuPhe
 CGAACTGGGCAGTATAAACTTGGATCCAAACAGGACCTGGGCAGAAAGCTATACTTTT
¹⁴⁰ LeuProMetSerAlaLysSertrm
 CTTCCAATGTCTGCTAAGAGCTGA

Fig. 2

(a) EcoR I M P A
 5' -G ATT ACG AAT TCT ATG CCA GCA T- 3'
 CA
 3' -C TAA TGC TTA GTA TAC GGT CGT- 5'
 Nde I

(b) 118
 S W Y V A L K R T G
 5' -AGT TGG TAT GTG GCA CTG AAA CGA ACT GGG- 3'
 TGC
 3' -C ATA CAC CGT ACG TTT GCT TGA C-5'
 Sph I

(c) 139
 K A I L F L P M S A
 5' - AAA GCA ATA CTT TTT CTT CCA ATG TCT GCT -3'
 G
 3' - CGA TAT GAA ACA GAA GGT TAC -5'

(d) 75
 A N R Y L A M K E D
 5' - GCT AAT CGT TAC CTG GCT ATG AAG GAA GAT GG- 3'
 TG
 3' -A GCA ATG GAC ACA TAC TTC CTT -5'

(e) 85
 G R L L A S K S V T D
 5' - GGA AGA TTA CTA GCT TCT AAG TCT GTT ACG GAT -3'
 A GC
 3' - TCT AAT GAT CGT ACG TTC AGA CAA -5'
 Sph I

Fig. 3

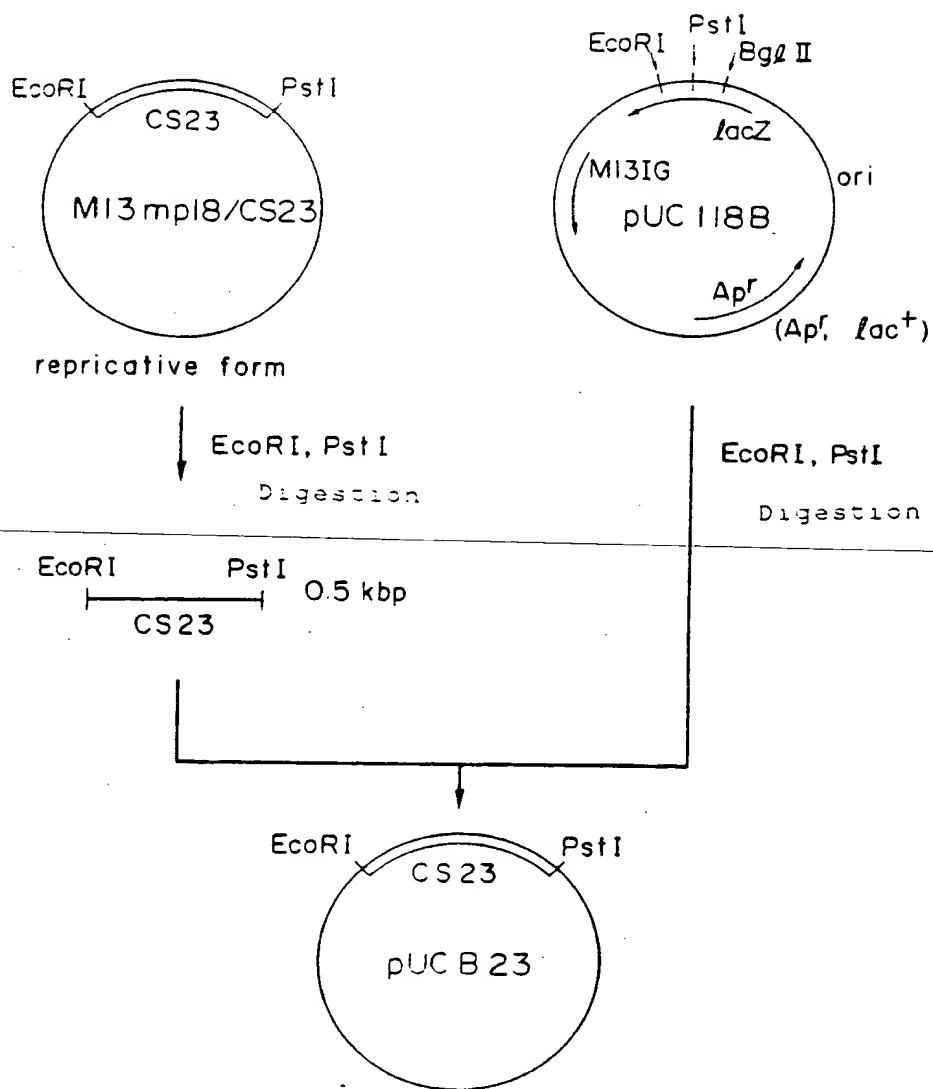


Fig. 4

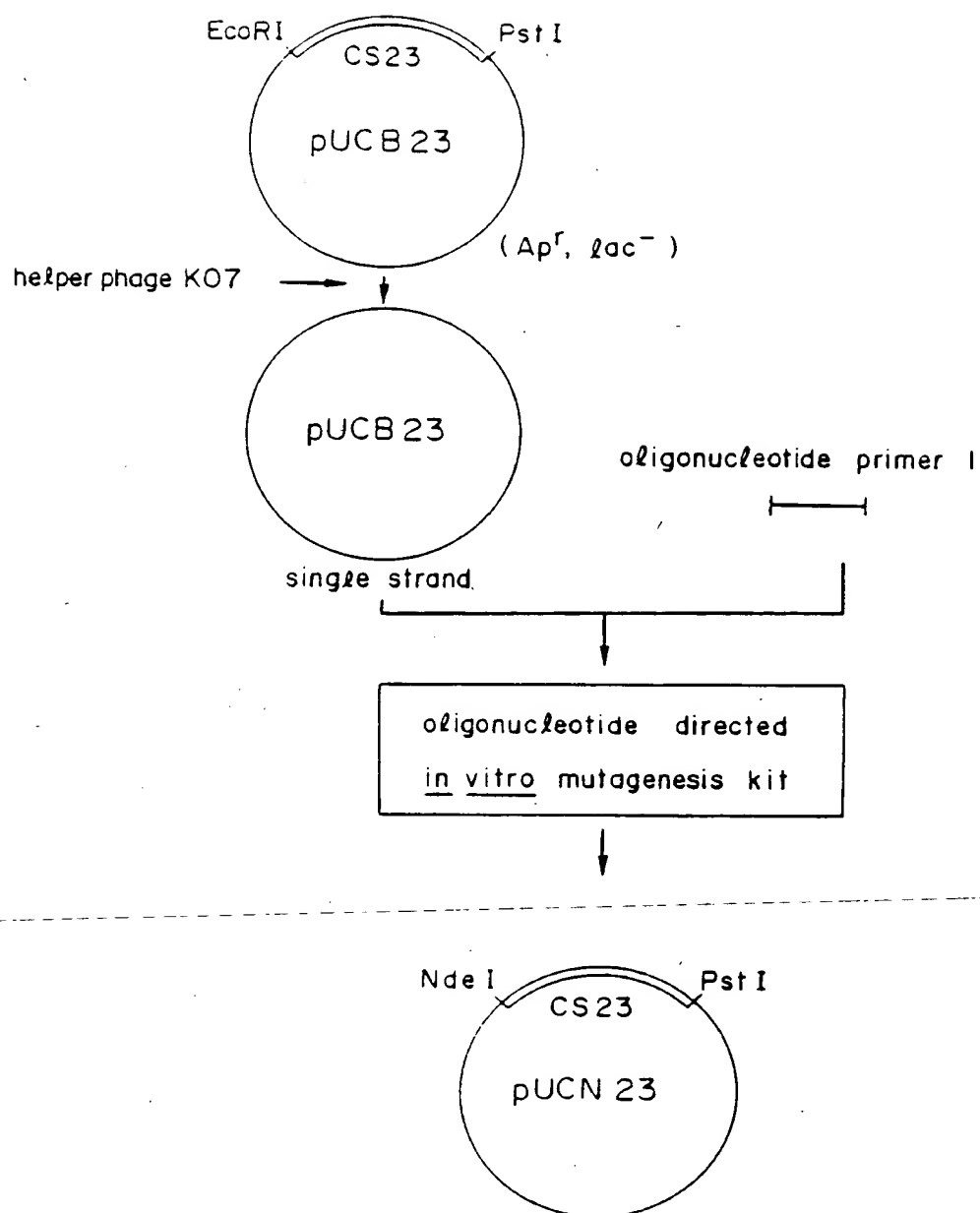


Fig. 5

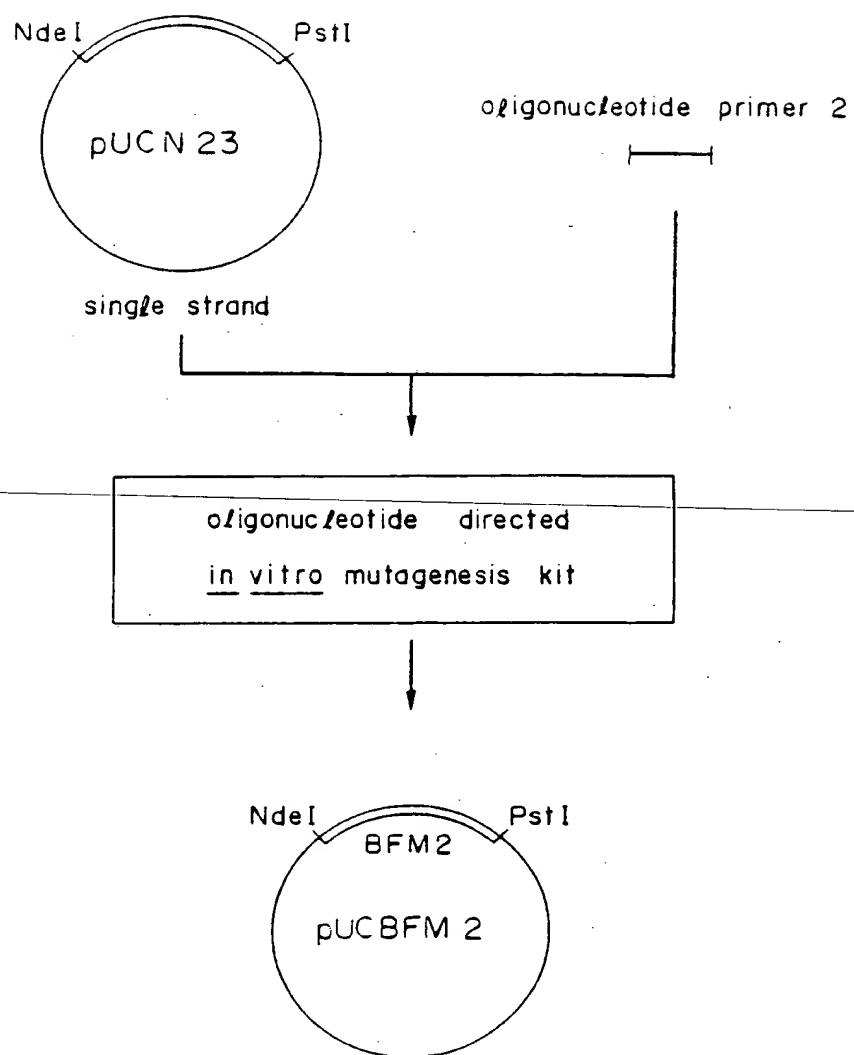


Fig. 6

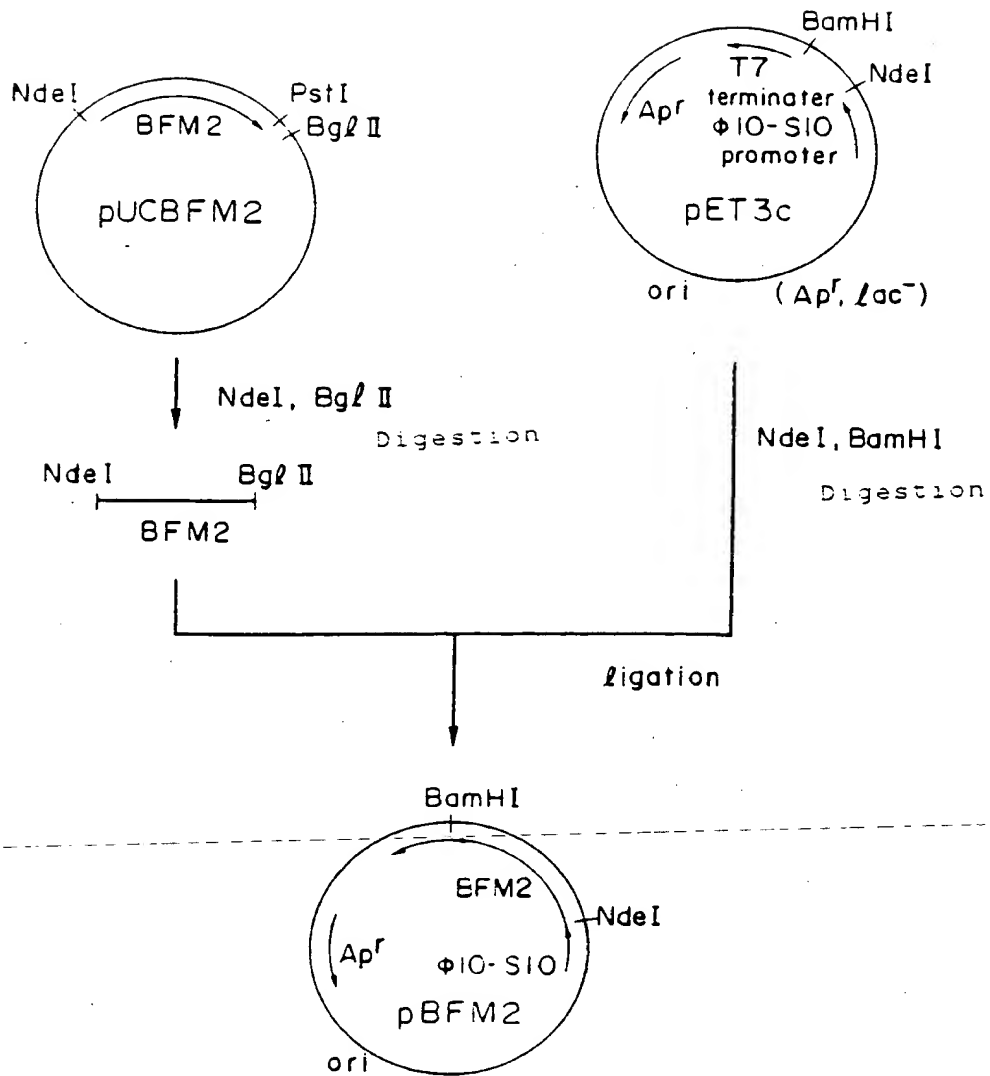


Fig. 7

¹ ProAlaLeuProGluAspGlyGlySerGlyAlaPheProProGlyHisPheLysAsp¹⁹
 ATGCCAGCATTTGCCCGAGGATGGCGGCCTTCCCGCCCGCCACTTCAAGGAC
²⁰ ProLysArgLeuTyrCysLysAsnGlyGlyPhePheLeuArgIleHisProAspGlyArg³⁹
 CCCAAGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAACGGGGGCTTCTTCTGCGCATCCACCCGACGGCCGA
⁴⁰ ValAspGlyValArgGluLysSerAspProHisIleLysLeuGlnLeuAlaGluGlu⁵⁹
 GTTGACGGGGTCCGGGAGAGAGCGACCTCACATCAAGCTACAACCTCAAGCAGAGAG
⁶⁰ ArgGlyValValSerIleLysGlyValSerAlaAsnArgTyrLeuAlaMetLysGluAsp⁷⁹
 AGAGGAGTTGTGTCTATCAAGGAGTGAGCGGCTAAICGTTACCTGGCTATGAAGGAAGAT
⁸⁰ GlyArgLeuLeuAlaSerLysSerValThrAspGluCysPhePheGluArgLeuGlu⁹⁹
 GGAAGATTACTAGCTTCTAAGTCTGTTACGGGATGAGTGTTCTTTTGAACGATTGGAA
¹⁰⁰ SerAsnAsnTyrAsnThrTyrArgSerArgLysTyrThrSerTrpTyrValAlaCysLys¹¹⁹
 TCTAATAACTACAATACTTACCGGTCAAGGAAATACACCAGTTGGTATGTGGCAIGCAA
¹²⁰ ArgThrGlyGlnTyrLysLeuGlySerLysThrGlyProGlyGlnLysAlaIleLeuPhe¹³⁹
 CGAACTGGCCAGTATAAAGTTGGATCCAAACAGGACCTGGGCAGAAAGCTATACTTTT
¹⁴⁰ LeuProMetSerAlaLysSerTrp
 CTTCCAATGTCTGCTAAGAGCTGA

Fig. 8

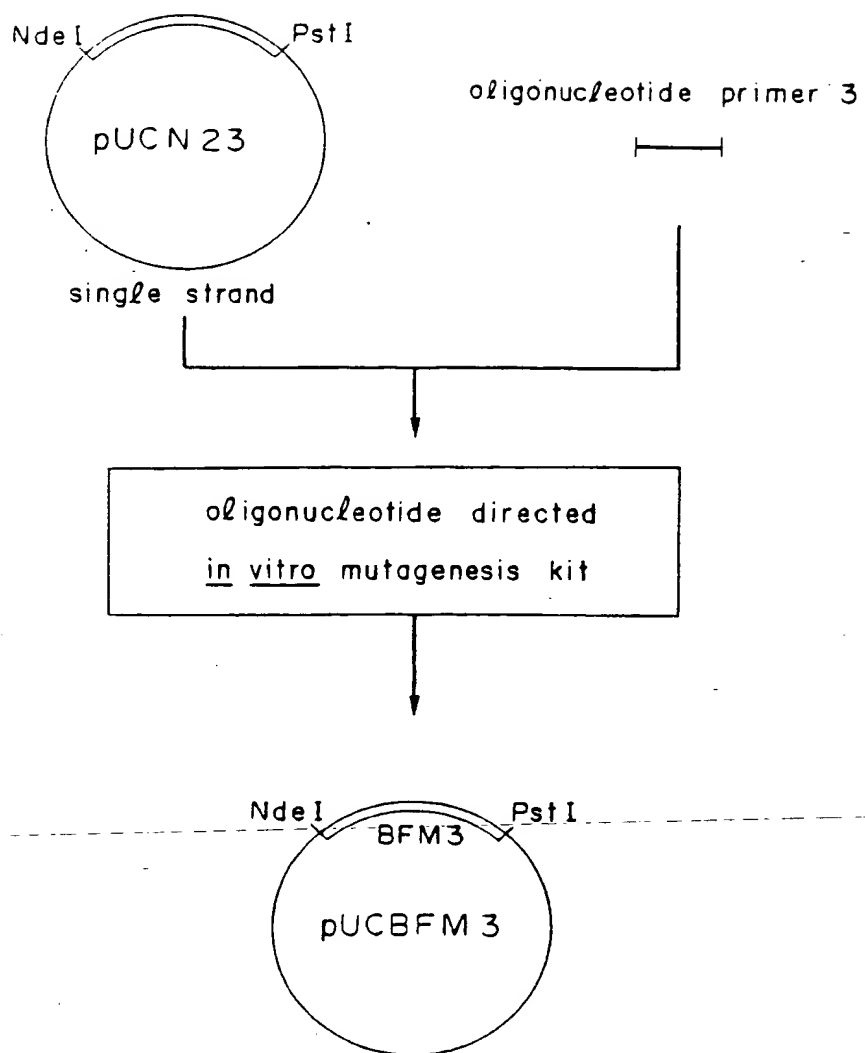


Fig. 9

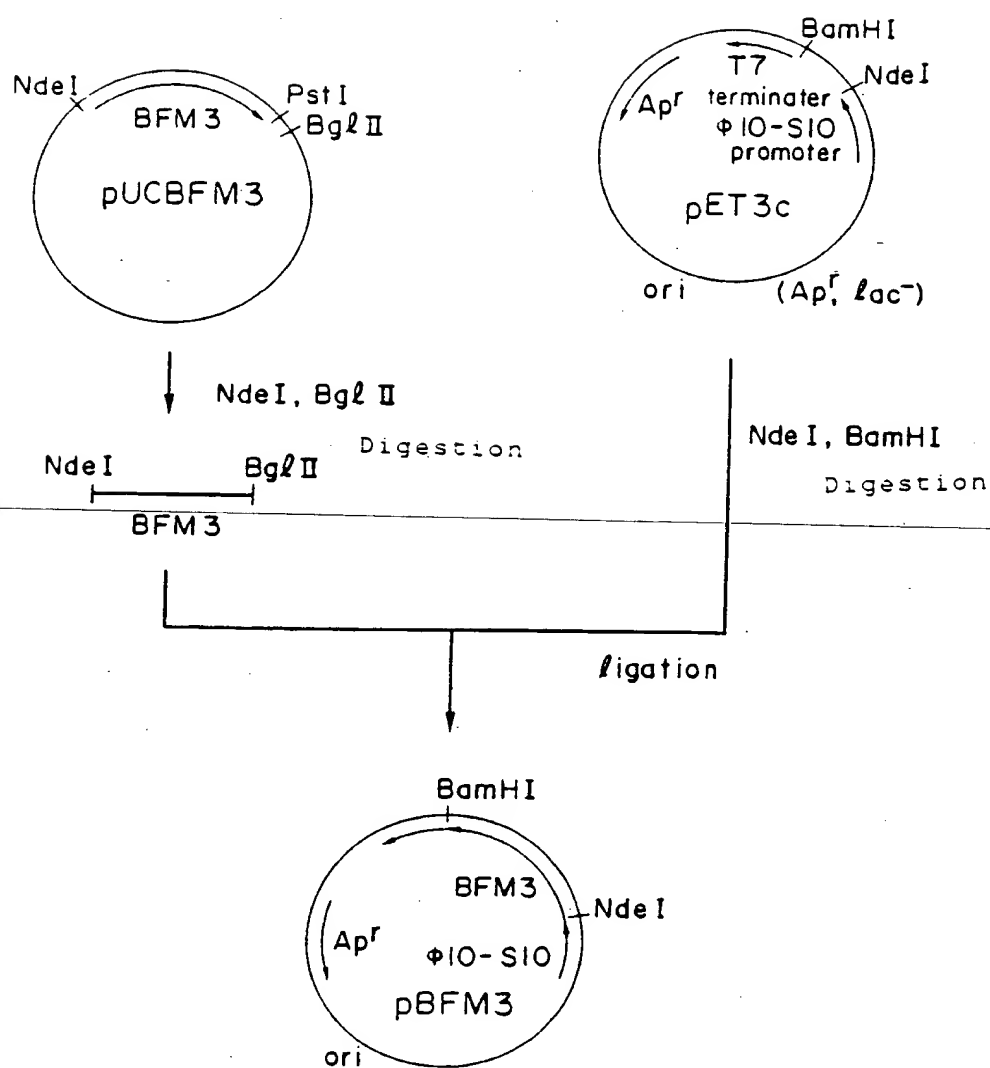


Fig. 10

1 ProAlaLeuProGluAspGlyGlySerGlyAlaPheProProGlyHisPheLysAsp 19
 ATGCCAGCATTGCCCGAGGATGGCGGCAGCGGGCTTCCCGCCCGCCACTTCAAGGAC
 20 ProLysArgLeuTyrCysLysAsnGlyGlyPhePheLeuArgIleHisProAspGlyArg 39
 CCCAAGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAAACGGGGCTTCTTCTGCGCATCCACCCGACGGCCGA
 40 ValAspGlyValArgGluLysSerAspProHisIleLysLeuGlnLeuAlaGluGlu 59
 GTTGACGGGTCCCGGAGAGAGCGACCTCACATCAAGCTACAACCTCAAGCAGAGAG
 60 ArgGlyValValSerIleLysGlyValSerAlaAsnArgTyrLeuAlaMetLysGluAsp 79
 AGAGGAGTTGTGCTATCAAGGAGTGAGCGCTAATCGTTACCTGGCTATGAAGGAAGAT
 80 GlyArgLeuLeuAlaSerLysSerValThrAspGluCysPhePheGluArgLeuGlu 99
 GGAAGATTACTAGCTTCTAAGTCTGTTACGGATGAGTGTTCTTTTGGACGATTGGAA
 100 SerAsnAsnTyrAsnThrTyrArgSerArgLysTyrThrSerTrpTyrValAlaLeuLys 119
 TCTAATAACTACAATACTTACCGGTCAAGGAAATACACCAGTTGGTATGTGGCACTGAAA
 120 ArgThrGlyGlnTyrLysLeuGlySerLysThrGlyProGlyGlnLysAlaIleLeuCys 139
 CGAACTGGGCAGTATAAACTTGGATCCAAACAGGACCTGGGCAGAAAGCTATACTTTGT
 140 LeuProMetSerAlaLysSertrm
 CTTCCAATGTCTCTAAGAGCTGA

Fig. 11

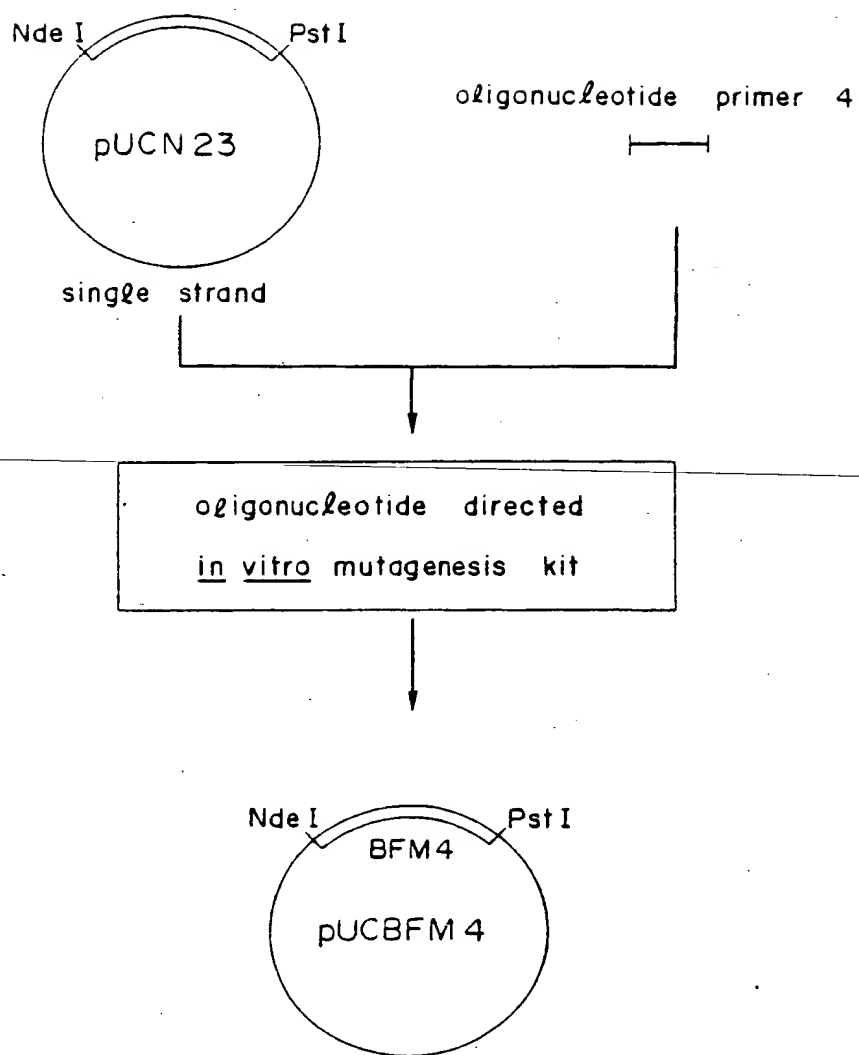


Fig. 12

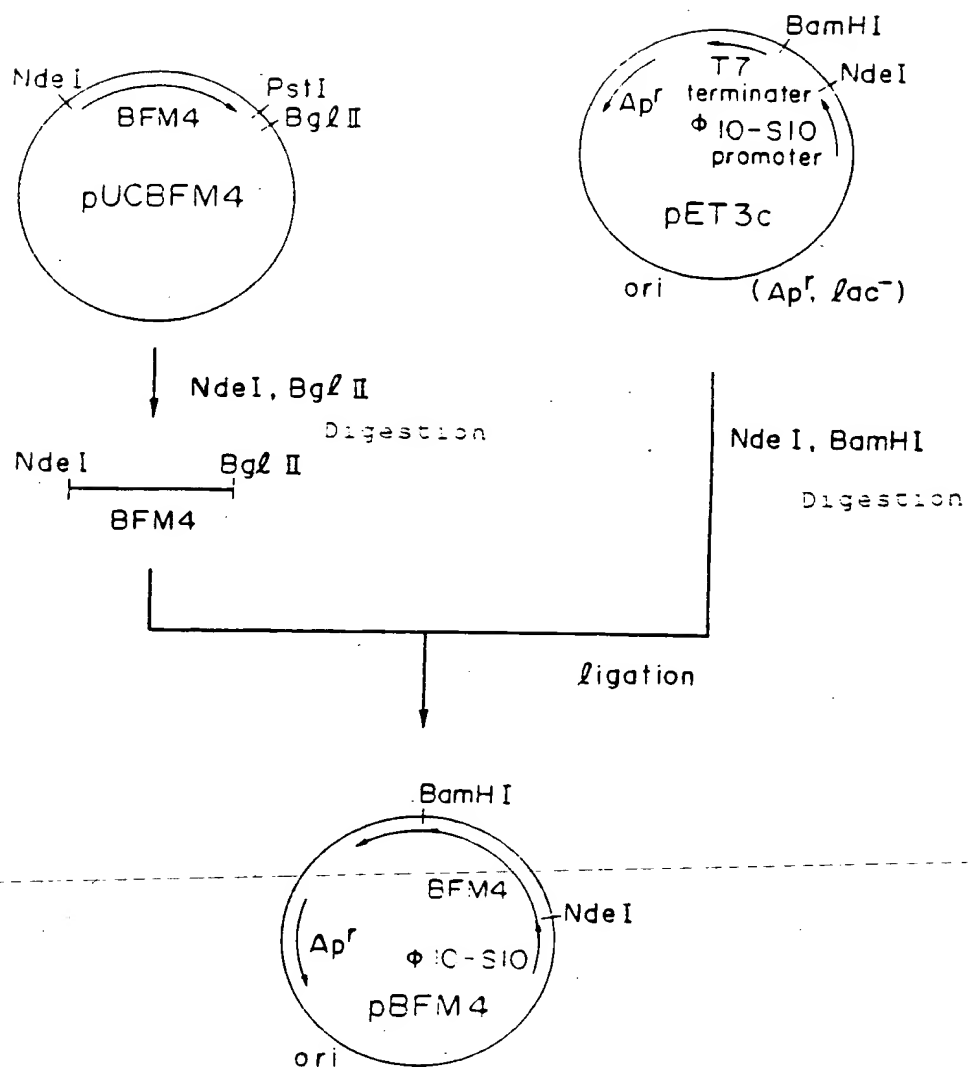


Fig. 13

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1      ProAlaLeuProGluAspGlyGlySerGlyAlaPheProProGlyHisPheLysAsp      19
      ATGCCAGCATTGCCCGAGGATGGCGGCAGCGGCCCTTCCCGCCCGCCACTTCAAGGAC
20      ProLysArgLeuTyrCysLysAsnGlyGlyPhePheLeuArgIleHisProAspGlyArg      39
      CCCAAGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAACGGGGGCTTCTTCTCGGCATCCACCCCGACGGCCGA
40      ValAspGlyValArgGluLysSerAspProHisIleLysLeuGlnLeuGlnAlaGluGlu      59
      GTTGACGGGGTCCGGGAGAGAGCGACCTCACATCAAGCTCAACTTCAAGCAGAAAGAG
60      ArgGlyValValSerIleLysGlyValSerAlaAsnArgTyrLeuCysMetLysGluAsp      79
      AGAGGAGTTGTGCTCTATCAAGGAGTGAGCGGCTAAICGTTACCTGIGTATGAAGGAAGAT
80      GlyArgLeuLeuAlaSerLysSerValThrAspGluCysPhePheGluArgLeuGlu      99
      CGAAGATTACTAGCTTCTAAGTCTGTACGGATGAGTGTTCTTTTGTGACGATTGGAA
100     SerAsnAsnTyrAsnThrTyrArgSerArgLysTyrThrSerTrpTyrValAlaLeuLys      119
      TCTAATAACTACAATACTTACCGGTCAAGGAAATACACCAGTTGGTATGTGGCAGCTGAAA
120     ArgThrGlyGlnTyrLysLeuGlySerLysThrGlyProGlyGlnLysAlaIleLeuPhe      139
      CGAACTGGGCAGTATAAACTTGGATCCAAAACAGGACCTGGGCAGAAAGCTATATTTT
140     LeuProMetSerAlaLysSertrm
      CTCCCAATGTCTGCTAAGAGCTGA

```

Fig. 14

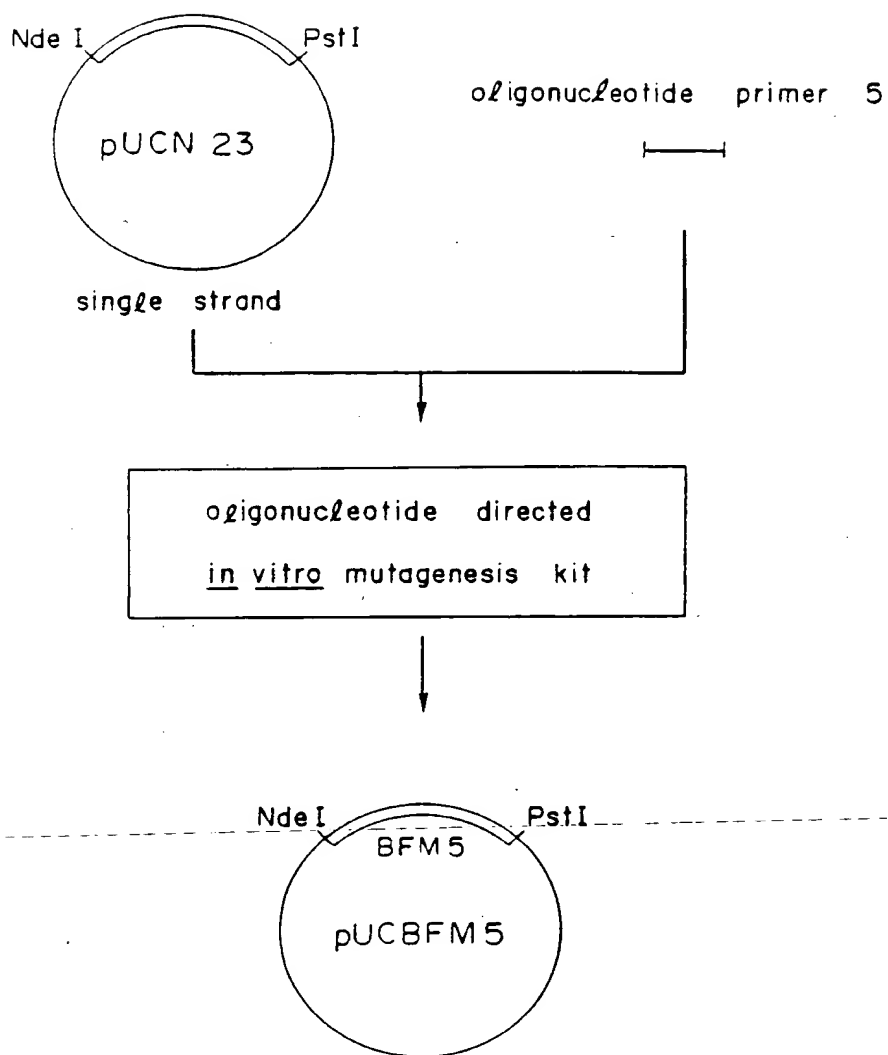


Fig. 15

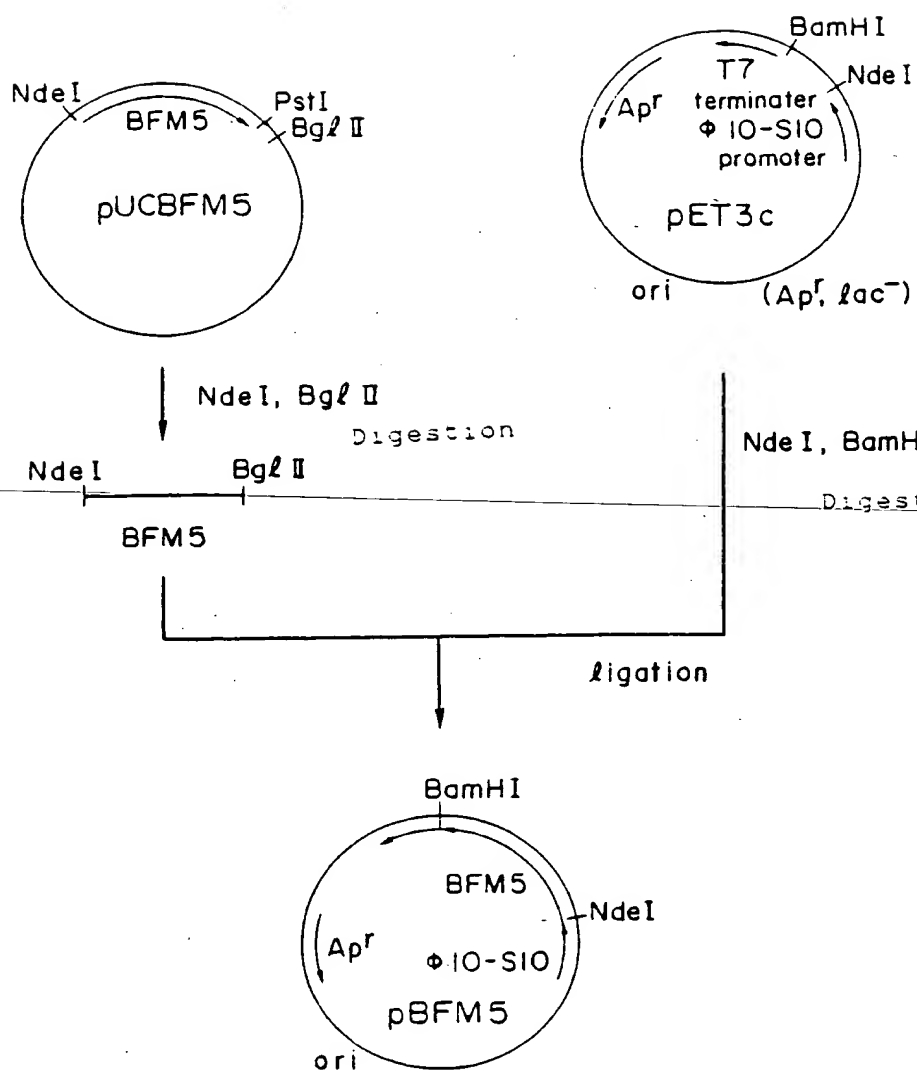


Fig. 16

1 ProAlaLeuProGluAspGlyGlySerGlyAlaPheProProGlyHisPheLysAsp¹⁹
 ATGCCAGCATTGCCCGAGGATGGCGGACAGGGGGCTTCCCGCCCGGCCACTTCAAGGAC
 20 ProLysArgLeuTyrCysLysAsnGlyGlyPhePheLeuArgIleHisProAspGlyArg³⁹
 CCCAAGCGGCTGTACTGCAAAACGGGGGCTTCTTCCTGCGCATCCACCCGACGGCCGA
 40 ValAspGlyValArgGluLysSerAspProHisIleLysLeuGlnLeuGlnAlaGluGlu⁵⁹
 GTTGACGGGTCCCGGGAGAGAGCGACCCCTCACATCAAGCTACAACCTCAAGCAGAGAG
 60 ArgGlyValValSerIleLysGlyValSerAlaAsnArgTyrLeuAlaMetLysGluAsp⁷⁹
 AGAGGAGTTGTCTATCAAGGAGTGAGCGCTAAICGTTACCTGGCTATGAAGGAAGAT
 80 GlyArgLeuLeuAlaCysLysSerValThrAspGluCysPhePheGluArgLeuGlu⁹⁹
 GGAAGATTACTAGCATGCAAGTCTGTTACGGATGAGTGTCTCTTTTGTGAACGATTGGAA
 100 SerAsnAsnTyrAsnThrTyrArgSerArgLysTyrThrSerTrpTyrValAlaLeuLys¹¹⁹
 TCTAATAACTACAATACTTACCGGTCAAGGAAATACACCAGTTGGTATGTGGCACTGAAA
 120 ArgThrGlyGlnTyrLysLeuGlySerLysThrGlyProGlyGlnLysAlaIleLeuPhe¹³⁹
 CGAACTGGGCAGTATAACTTGGATCCAAACAGGACCTGGGCAGAAAGCTATACTTTT
 140 LeuProMetSerAlaLysSerTrp
 CTTCCAATGTCTGCTAAGAGCTGA

Fig. 17

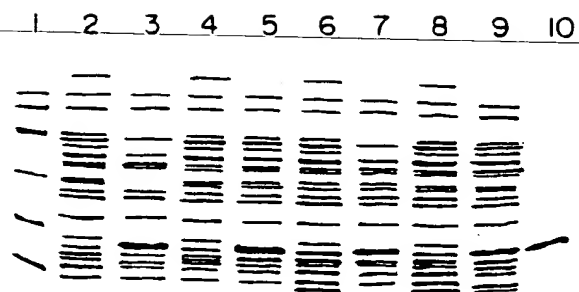


Fig. 18

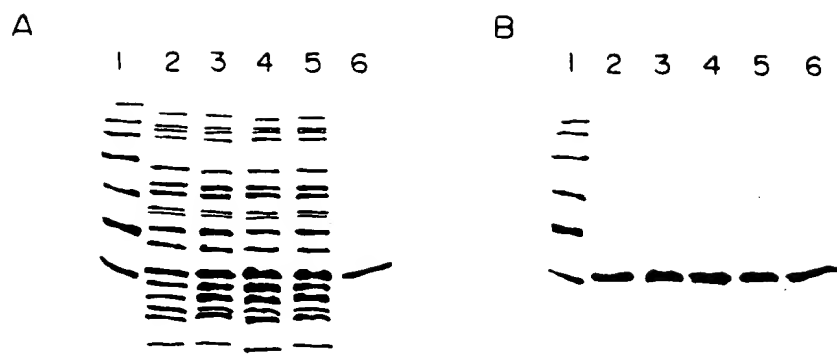


Fig. 19

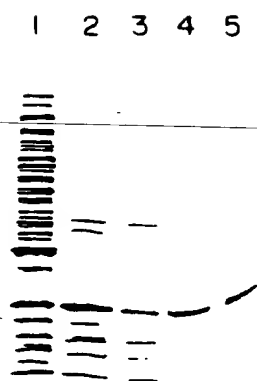


Fig. 20

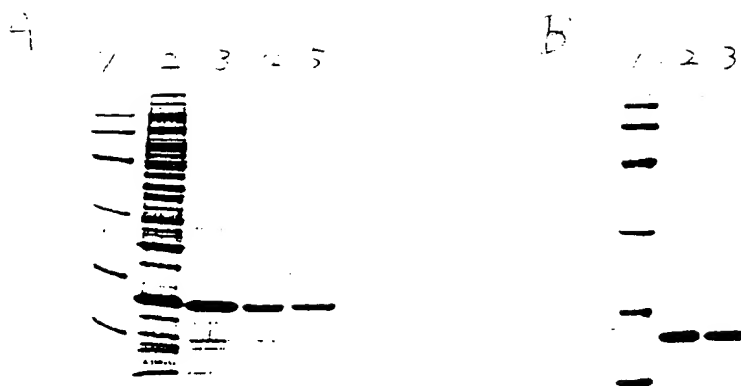


Fig. 21

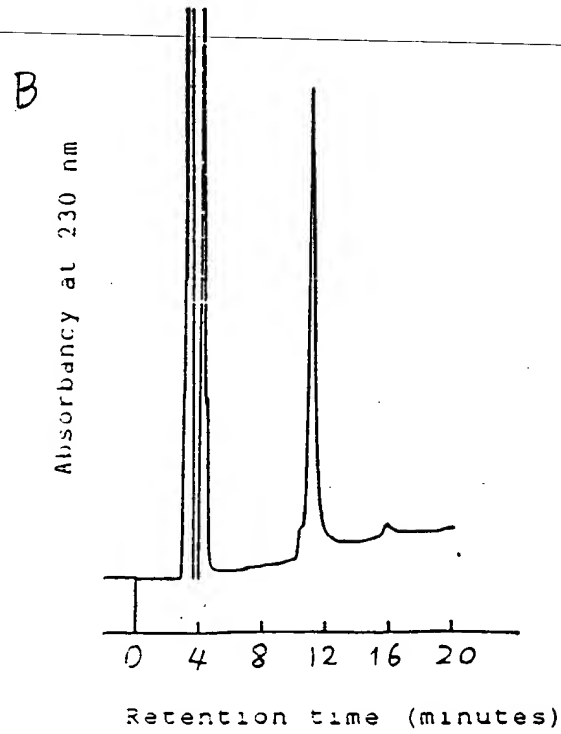
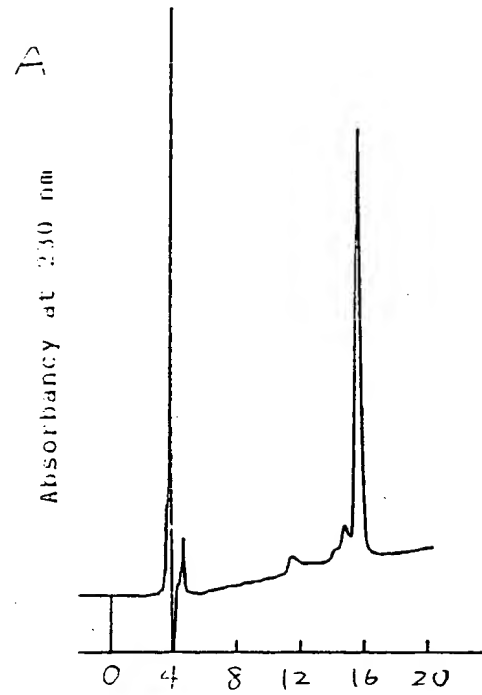


Fig. 22

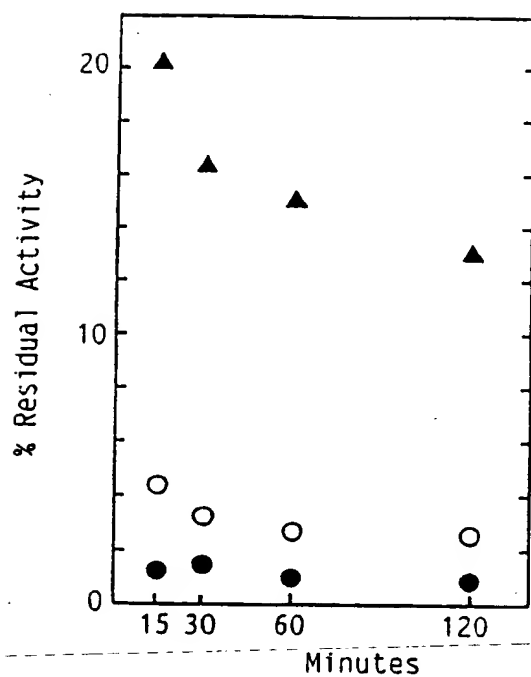
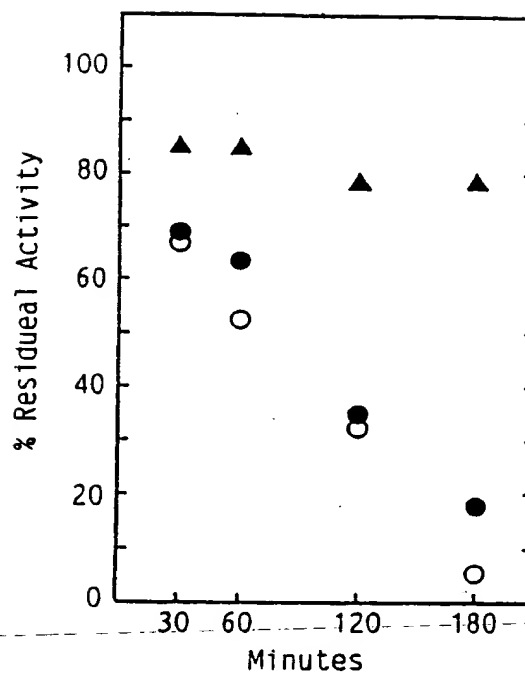


Fig. 23





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 92107014.0
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)
Y	WO - A - 90/13 310 (CALIFORNIA BIOTECHNOLOGY INC.) * Pages 16-17; claims 1-3, 9, 10 *	1-15	C 07 K 13/00 C 12 N 15/70 C 12 P 21/02 A 61 K 37/24
Y	WO - A - 89/04 832 (AMGEN INC.) * Pages 56-59; claims 1, 17, 18, 21, 28, 29 *	1-15	
A	EP - A - 0 298 723 (BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ASSOC.) * Abstract; pages 32-33; claims 1-3, 18-27 *	1-15	
A	WO - A - 90/02 800 (FARMITALIA CARLO ERBA S.R.L.) * Abstract; pages 25-27; claims 1, 8, 14-20 *	1-15	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)
			C 07 K 13/00 C 12 N 15/00 C 12 P 21/00 A 61 K 37/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
VIENNA		15-07-1992	SCHARF
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

